

Kissinger hit Bush's 'new world order'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has attacked President George Bush's idea of a "new world order" as impossible to fulfill. Mr. Bush has repeatedly referred to the new order in recent speeches. In a speech Monday, Mr. Bush said success in the Gulf war would bring "a chance to build a new world order, based upon the principles of collective security and the rule of law." Mr. Kissinger wrote in response: "I have greatly admired President Bush's skill and fortitude in building the (Gulf war) coalition." But the new world order cannot possibly fulfill the idealistic expectations expressed by the president. I doubt indeed whether they accurately describe what happened in the Gulf crisis. United States policymakers must recognise that the new world order cannot be built in American specifications. America cannot force feed a global sense of community where none exists." In a Washington Post article, "American predominance cannot last," Mr. Kissinger wrote that those who hope for a "community of power" have been disappointed by both the League of Nations and the United Nations.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Germans to pay Gulf war tax

FRANKFURT (AP) — The government on Tuesday announced plans for a broad increase in taxes that will raise about \$30 billion to cover unification and Gulf war costs. The plan adopted by the governing coalition calls for higher income, corporate, gasoline, insurance and tobacco taxes, limited to a 12-month period beginning July 1, 1991. The package is expected to raise about 46 billion marks (\$30 billion) to cover budget deficits caused by higher than anticipated unification costs and outlays for the allied effort in the Gulf war, Finance Minister Theo Waigel said. Mr. Waigel said the government would not consider a hike in the 14-per cent value-added tax before 1993. The tax agreement came early Tuesday after long talks between Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats and their coalition partners, the Free Democrats. The plan marks a sharp reversal in Mr. Kohl's policies. Mr. Kohl had promised no new taxes during his pre-election campaign. But since Mr. Kohl's election victory in December, the government has admitted that it underestimated the cost of revamping the formerly communist economy of East Germany.

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Bush rejects Iraqi withdrawal, insists on continuing Gulf war

Battle of Kuwait ends, battle against Iraq begins

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED FORCES continued attacks on Iraqi soldiers withdrawing from Kuwait Tuesday after U.S. President George Bush rejected Iraq's announcement that it was relinquishing the emirate and pulling out its forces.

Most reports indicated that the bulk of the Iraqi forces were out of Kuwait and the American-led allied army and air force had trapped others within the emirate and southern Iraq.

Analysts said the American aim seemed to be not only to destroy Iraq's military but also to occupy large chunks of territory in southern Iraq which could be used as bargaining chips in achieving what appeared Tuesday to be the objective of total and complete Iraqi capitulation to Washington's terms.

Fighting between Iraq's elite Republican Guards and allied

forces were reported in several areas. In some other areas of the Gulf war theatre, trapped Iraqi soldiers, overpowered and outnumbered by the allied forces, were also surrendering, reports said. No specific numbers were immediately available.

The news blackout imposed by the allies appeared to be holding on allied casualties in the war, with most members of the coalition reporting negligible casualties as low as two or three.

Troops from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Egypt, France, Syria, Kuwait and others had suffered "remarkably light" casualties in the fighting, 18 killed and about 70 wounded, said one military spokesman.

Baghdad Radio quoted an Iraqi military spokesman as confirming allied reports that their armour and planes were attacking

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Saddam says Iraqis gained moral victory

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein said Tuesday he would immediately withdraw all his troops from Kuwait. But Iraqi military commanders said the allies continued to press their attacks.

"The withdrawal has started and today it will be completed," President Saddam said in a broadcast over Baghdad Radio. There was jubilation in Baghdad. Anti-aircraft batteries and militia soldiers fired into the air in celebration.

But the United States and Britain rejected the withdrawal, saying President Saddam must agree to comply with all U.N. Security Council resolutions including paying reparations to Kuwait and abandoning claims to the emirate.

The Iraqi military said allied forces continued attacking the

soldiers during the pullout and that allied aircraft were bombing withdrawing troops.

Allied armour also was attacking Iraq's 18th division although the force is making preparations for withdrawal, the spokesman said without elaborating on the location of the unit.

An allied military officer in Saudi Arabia claimed Iraqi units were not withdrawing but retreating under fire and then taking up defensive positions to fight. The officer also said Iraqis were putting up stiff resistance in a tank battle near the international airport in Kuwait City.

There was no indication if that was the armoured battle that the Iraqi spokesman referred to.

"Our forces will continue their organised, orderly disciplined withdrawal in spite of what is happening, including during the

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Jordan demands ceasefire in Gulf

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Tuesday demanded a ceasefire in the Gulf war after Iraq announced it was withdrawing its troops from Kuwait and called for international support for Soviet efforts towards achieving a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The demand was made by His Majesty King Hussein, who conveyed the Jordanian position to the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the

Security Council in an urgent meeting he summoned. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King "emphasised the need to intensify diplomatic efforts at the Security Council to bring about a ceasefire in the war and support the Soviet efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict."

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri attended the meeting. The King also called for urgent efforts to address the pressing humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people and avert an epidemic

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Cabinet welcomes Iraqi move

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Tuesday welcomed Iraq's move to withdraw from Kuwait in accordance with United Nations Resolution 660 and called for intensified international efforts to bring about a ceasefire in the Gulf. The Cabinet, which held a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, discussed "the latest dangerous developments in the Gulf and what accompanies them in diplomatic efforts in the United Nations Security Council aimed at bringing about a ceasefire immediately," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The Cabinet expressed "its anxiety and utmost concern over attempts to bypass international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions by the allied forces." The aims of the U.S.-led coalition "have started to threaten Iraq and the security of the region and stability and create anger and condemnation from the Arab citizen," the report said. The Cabinet stressed the principles adopted by Jordan towards the Gulf crisis and "expressed its pride over the awareness and self-control shown by the Jordanian citizen which would reinforce the country's internal front and national unity."

Allies' stand stalls Security Council

Combined agency dispatches

THE SECURITY COUNCIL suspended consultations Tuesday without reaching any formal decision on a ceasefire or acceptance of Iraq's offer to withdraw from Kuwait.

Diplomats said they expected the session to resume but no date has been set yet.

Members of the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq said they were not prepared to halt the fighting until Baghdad accepted all 12 council resolutions adopted in the wake of its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Other nations preferred an immediate ceasefire.

Iraq's ambassador told the

Security Council early Tuesday that Iraq was pulling out of Kuwait.

The Soviet Union said it believes the announced withdrawal satisfies "all interested parties" in the Gulf war, and urged the United Nations to call an immediate ceasefire.

But U.S. President George Bush called Iraq's statement "an outrage" and said it was "trying to claim victory in the midst of a rout."

Britain — which along with the United States could veto any resolutions as a permanent member of the council — also sharply criticised Iraq's statement.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minis-

ter Alexander Belonogov said in Moscow that at Iraq's request, the Soviet ambassador at the United Nations, Yuri Vorontsov, was proposing "an immediate decision on the issue of a ceasefire."

Mr. Belonogov said President Saddam Hussein also said in the message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that Iraqi troops were withdrawing from Kuwait.

The official TASS news agency quoted the presidential message as saying: "In compliance with U.N. Security Resolution 660, the Iraqi leadership is ready to withdraw its troops from Kuwait immediately. The order to start a pullout has already been issued."

Mr. Belonogov said the presidential message was immediately relayed to the Security Council as well as the White House.

The Soviet Union on Monday had presented a second peace plan to the Security Council. It reportedly was quite close to conditions set forth by Mr. Bush, who has demanded an Iraqi pullout within a week and a renunciation by Iraq of any claims on Kuwait.

Even as the Security Council convened later, however, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater added a new condition to the

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U.S.-Soviet relations fragile — Gorbachev

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT MIKHAIL Gorbachev said Tuesday that progress in Soviet-U.S. relations was still fragile and urged Washington not to destroy what had been achieved, according to TASS news agency.

Mr. Gorbachev, speaking to workers in the Byelorussian city of Minsk, said the Middle East would remain a powder keg if there were no general settlement of conflicts there after the Gulf war.

"Stressing that Soviet-American dialogue lay at the centre of normalisation of the world situation, Mikhail Gorbachev remarked that progress in relations between the USA and

the USSR was still 'fragile'. He called for 'responsible behaviour' so that what has been achieved is not destroyed," TASS said.

"It is vital to end this conflict and put on the agenda of the world community resolution of the broader question of the Middle East," TASS quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying.

"Without this settlement, we will always have a powder keg there which could blow up the world. What now in the Middle East shows how urgent this is," Gorbachev said.

"Mr. Gorbachev's cautiously-worded comments marked the first top-level hint since the Gulf

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29 Americans killed in Al Khobar attack

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ'S DEADLIEST missile attack of the Gulf war killed 27 American servicemen and wounded 98, a U.S. military spokesman said Tuesday.

The missile smashed into a two-storey U.S. military barracks in Khobar, in eastern Saudi Arabia near the big allied military base at Dhahran, at about 9 p.m. (1800 GMT) Monday, causing an explosion and fire that gutted the building.

Residents said about 250 military support staff had occupied the barracks — a converted warehouse — for four months.

Witnesses said the missile's warhead scored a direct hit on the building, reducing it to a blackened shell of twisted steel girders and chunks of concrete.

The central command of the U.S.-led military alliance said the Iraqi rocket broke up in mid-air, making it unnecessary to fire Patriot air defence missiles to intercept it.

The missile was the first of the 42 fired against forces in the Gulf in 40 days of war. One Saudi Arabian was killed in a previous attack. Four Israelis were killed in 54 Scud attacks on the Jewish state.

The barracks deaths raised to 125 the number of allied soldiers.

and airmen acknowledged to have been killed in combat or accidents since the Gulf war began on Jan. 17.

Two more Iraqi missiles were fired at the Gulf states of Bahrain and Qatar — both members of the anti-Iraq coalition — early Tuesday, but no casualties or damage were reported.

Air raid sirens sounded at 1.30 a.m. on Tuesday (2230 GMT on Monday), in Dhahran, other parts of eastern Saudi Arabia and in the capital Riyadh. The air-clear was sounded about 10 minutes later.

One witness to the Khobar attack, a Saudi air force sergeant, told Reuters: "I saw a very large piece, it almost looked like a bomb. It plunged straight into the building."

A reporter said he saw scores of wounded Americans at a Saudi government hospital, some with broken limbs and shrapnel wounds.

Ambulances, school buses with blacked out windows and two civilian buses took the injured to the nearest hospitals.

Some were rushed into operating theatres. Others lined hallways, awaiting attention and pleading for pain killers.

Bahrain said its air defences

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Israel wants allies to make Saddam 'disappear'

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Shamir, reacting to Saddam Hussein's speech of withdrawal, said Tuesday it was essential to Israeli "security for the Iraqi leader to disappear from the international arena."

"I do not want to discuss the means and ways. It is not in our hands, we do not determine when the campaign ends," Mr. Shamir added, speaking on Israeli radios from the parliament.

Other officials voiced mixed feelings — optimistic that the war was nearing an end, while wary about whether the fighting would end with Iraq's military threat to Israel intact.

Danny Naveh, a spokesman for Defence Minister Moshe Arens, said the war was not over for Israel as long as Iraq remained capable of firing Scud missiles at the Jewish state.

"It looks as though we are nearing the day — or night — when we can breathe easy also in Israel," Mr. Naveh said. "But as long as there is ceasefire, and we still do not see one, the Iraqi threat exists."

Mr. Naveh added that American bombers were continuing

"constant action to prevent Iraq's launching capability" from western Iraq where 39 Scud missiles have been shot at Israel since Jan. 18.

In the attacks, two Israelis have been killed, 230 wounded and nearly 11,000 homes and apartments damaged or destroyed.

Israel Television military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reported that an Iraqi division commander overseeing the launchers was under orders to keep firing "as many missiles as possible against Israel." He gave no source for the report.

Other officials warned that Israel must be on highest alert in case Iraq carries out its threat to aim chemical warheads.

Army spokesman Nahman Shai said that as long as Scud missile batteries remained in western Iraq "the threat stands." He advised Israelis to keep their gas masks on hand.

"I would say that precisely now we have to be more careful. ... Exactly in the last moments, the biggest mistakes are made."

Police Minister Roni Milo said police should "increase alert and take precautions, precisely at this moment with the heavy blows that Iraq is taking."

Iran reports allied raids on Iraq, assails U.S.

Combined agency dispatches

IRAN'S BORDER TOWNS rumbled as allied warplanes pounded targets in Iraq in what the Iranian media Tuesday said was the heaviest bombardment of the six-week war.

Greasy "black rain" from burning oil installations in Iraq and Kuwait, pouring in Iran's southwestern Lorestan province had damaged water facilities, pastures and farms, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency has reported several instances of the phenomenon over the past three weeks.

Poi-e-Dokhtar, in western Lorestan province, was flooded by the greasy rain, and a thick, black haze had blanketed the town in total darkness, IRNA reported.

This was despite an early morning announcement on Baghdad

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Sheikh Jaber declares martial law in Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

THE EMIR OF KUWAIT Tuesday declared martial law in the emirate for three months, the toppled government's radio said.

The declaration came shortly after the official Kuwait News Agency reported that Iraqi forces had evacuated Kuwait City and neighbouring regions.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the prime minister of Kuwait, was declared the military governor, the government radio said.

The radio said the emir issued the decree from the government's exile base in Taif, Saudi Arabia. The decree entrusted the military governor with coordination between the Kuwaiti armed forces and commanders of the

military forces of the foreign countries that "participated in the operation to liberate Kuwait."

The statement said the move was taken as the country prepares for "the bigger jihad" of rehabilitating the war-damaged country and "ensuring life in Kuwait against remnants of aggression and to protect people, honour and property against what might imperil the country."

The statement did not elaborate on the coordination process with the U.S.-led foreign forces that waged the war.

The emir escaped to Saudi Arabia when Iraqi troops overran his country on Aug. 2.

Kuwait had a population of nearly two million people on the

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District (Zerka) ■ Ghuweiriah (Zerka).

هناك منة للص

Palestinians do not see Iraqi pullout as defeat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories have voiced their support for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and do not consider it a defeat.

Palestinians interviewed by AFP (Agence France Presse) said that their open support for Iraq would not harm the Palestinian cause notwithstanding the outcome of the conflict whether it is a positive or negative one because they say that the Palestine problem continues with or without the Iraqi war.

Interview at a square near Al Aqsa Mosque the Director of the Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Department in Jerusalem Adnan Al Hussein said: "We are not aware of the final outcome of these battles, but we had believed that the ground battle would continue for more than three days. The decision to withdraw is, however, Iraq's business and the Iraqis are the only people concerned about this decision."

Hussein said: "Regardless of the outcome of these battles

the Palestine problem should not be affected because the Palestine question belongs to a people and has existed for more than 43 years. The Palestine problem is the root cause for all the problems in the Middle East region. This problem has continued to exist in the absence of a lasting solution and could continue for another 100 years. The Iraqi war can not solve the Palestine problem."

Sheikh Mohammad Ismail, inspector at the Sharia courts in the occupied Arab territories said: "As Muslims we absolutely support Iraq, and Saddam Hussein is considered as a wise man and a victorious knight. For the first time in Arab history an Arab Muslim man stands and challenges the whole world, and for this reason we are behind him until the end."

Mustafa Al Tamimi, 63, a shoemaker in Jerusalem said: "Saddam Hussein's step is a courageous one. He realises that they are after him, and that the battle will not end, but will be decided on Iraqi territory. I believe that the withdrawal is to bring about a change in the world public opinion about Iraq."

He said: "The Palestine problem has been our problem for the past years and Washington has been vetoing all the resolutions, what would it do now about Palestine?"

People in the West Bank in general gathered around radio sets to hear the news and Saddam Hussein's nation wide address. They agreed that the withdrawal was not a defeat but a tactical move. They said that Saddam Hussein's withdrawal angered Israel, the United States and Britain because they are intent on destroying his military machine.

Mufideh Hamad, 35, who works as a teacher said: "We do not consider the withdrawal as a defeat because Saddam has been facing 31 nations. We support Iraq because it was the only Arab country that has been championing our rights. We expect anything to emerge from the war; and even if he lost the battle, we will support him as a hero."

Excerpts from Saddam speech

HERE ARE EXCERPTS from Tuesday's speech by Saddam Hussein in which the Iraqi leader said his forces were withdrawing from Kuwait. The statement was carried by the Iraqi News Agency.

"Oh, great people, oh nobles in the forces of jihad and faith, oh glorious men of the mother of battles, oh truthful zealous believers in our glorious nation and all Muslims and good people in the world, oh glorious Iraqi women:

"In such circumstances and moments, it is difficult to say all that should be said. ... nevertheless, it is necessary to mention the essential.

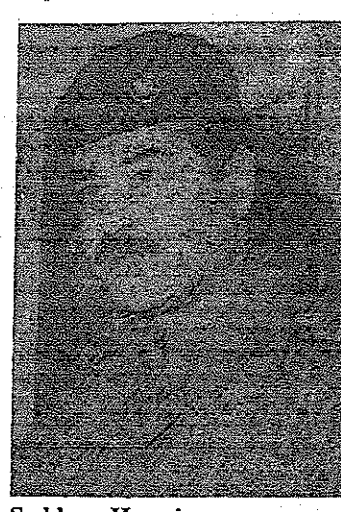
"This day, our armed forces will complete their withdrawal from Kuwait. Today, our fight against aggression and atheism in a 30-country coalition that has officially waged a U.S.-led war on us, will have lasted from the night of Jan. 16-17 until this moment — two months of the legendary showdown.

"This showdown is a clear evidence of what God meant it to be: A lesson that would lead the believers to faith, immunity and capability, and the unfaithful, criminals, traitors, evil and deprived, to abyss, weakness and humiliation.

"This is the time of military and non-military showdown, including a military and economic embargo imposed on Iraq from 1990 until God only knows when.

"The showdown has been staged for years — with other means. It was an epic conflict between right and wrong, and we have elaborated this matter on another occasion.

"We will never forget the great



Saddam Hussein

spirit of jihad of believers who fought the fortresses of evil and treachery.

"Everything we went through or decided was with compliance with God's will. Faith is a record of honour to the people, the nation, and the values of Islam and humanity.

"Today, special circumstances led the Iraqi army to withdraw because of different reasons including the aggression and abominable embargo carried out by 30 allied countries led by the criminal machine and entity in America and its chief allies.

"This evil violence found its efficiency not only in its preconceived aggressive intentions against Iraq and the Arab Nation and Islam, but also in the position of those who were fooled by the call of the international legality.

Everybody will remember that the gates of Constantinople were not opened to Muslims from the first attempt and that the cause of dear Palestine which has been

neglected by the international community is now again knocking at the closed doors to force them to solve it, no matter how hard the aggressors tried to obstruct this and thanks to the struggle of Palestinians and Iraqis.

"In addition, a solution for the Palestine cause is inevitable.

"Shout for victory, o brothers: shout for your victory and the victory of all honourable people, o Iraqis. You have fought 30 countries, and all the evil and the largest machine of war and destruction in the world that surrounds them.

"The soldiers of faith have triumphed over the soldiers of wrong, o stalwart men. Your God is the one who granted you victory.

"You have chosen the path which you have chosen, including the acceptance of the Soviet initiative, but those evildoers persisted in their path and methods, thinking that they can impose their will on Iraq, as they imagined and hoped.

"This hope of theirs may remain in their heads, even after we withdraw from Kuwait. Therefore, we must be cautious, and preparedness to fight must remain at the highest level.

"O you valiant men; you have fought the armies of 30 states and the capabilities of an even greater number of states which supplied them with the means of aggression and support. Faith, belief, hope, and determination continue to fill your chests, souls, and hearts. They have even become deeper, stronger, brighter, and more deeply rooted.

"May the lowly be defeated. Victory is sweet with the help of God."

Allies' ill-designs for Republican Guards

By Nicholas Doughy
Reuter

LONDON — The Gulf war allies are hoping to draw out Iraq's elite Republican Guard from defensive positions and to blast their tanks in the open with attack helicopters, military analysts say.

Reports on Monday that a column of Republican Guard tanks was on the move could mean the allies will be able to fight the battle on terms they prefer — mobile combat backed by air forces that are so far unchallenged in the skies.

The allies know that to be safe from counter-attack they have to get rid of the guard, Iraq's strategic reserve held just north of Kuwait.

Analysts say the allies are focusing on Iraqi armour because only tanks have enough mobility and punch to threaten coalition advances into Kuwait and Iraq.

"They certainly want to draw the Republican Guard out, where they can hit them hardest and don't have to worry about tackling prepared defences," said Paul Beaver, publisher of the Jane's Defence Weekly.

Although allied plans including B-52 bombers have attacked them repeatedly in recent weeks, the Republican Guard are believed to be well dug in on Iraq's southern border with Kuwait. But if the forces are not used, they are wasted.

"The Republican Guard are caught between a rock and a hard place," said Professor Trevor Taylor of the Institute for International Affairs. "Once they're out in the open, they're vulnerable to air power."

Equipped with modern Soviet-built T-72 tanks — Iraq's best — the guard professionals rather than conscripts, many of them battle-hardened in eight years of war with Iran.

The allied attack, launched on Sunday, apparently included a plan to force the hand of the guard, around 100,000 strong, with an outflanking manoeuvre.

A French force has struck deep into Iraq, moving rapidly north probably to try to cut off any withdrawal. A U.S. thrust of heavy armour is also reported to be moving into Iraq, ready to take the guard on whether they move or not.

A U.S. spokesman briefing reporters in Saudi Arabia made clear the allies were trying to hit armour as hard as they could, claiming 370 Iraqi tanks — including 370 T-72s — had been destroyed since the ground offensive started.

Allied sources claim the column of Republican Guard tanks that began moving south towards coalition forces on Monday was hit by U.S. Apache attack helicopters and ground strike aircraft.

Iraq had some 4,500 tanks in and around Kuwait before the war began, but military sources say allied air strikes may have destroyed around one-third of them before the ground war started. Many are older T-55 or T-62 models.

The allies are confident that if it comes to an armoured clash in the open desert, their tanks will win.

The T-72 could be a close match for the U.S. M1A1 and British Challenger tanks. Although its fire control and range-finding systems are less sophisticated, the T-72 has a bigger gun and presents a smaller target.

But the allies still have one major advantage in any tank clash — command of the skies which allows their planes to bomb Iraqi positions and armoured columns at will.

Oil well firefighters prepare for staggering job

NEW YORK (AP) — Extinguishing hundreds of burning oil wells in Kuwait will be the biggest job ever for three teams of renowned Texas firefighters who are ready to move into the emirate as soon as war ends.

"It's the worst we've ever seen," said Joe Bowden, president of Wild Well Control Inc. "We're probably looking at six months to a year."

As the ground war entered its fourth day Tuesday, the Iraqis reportedly had torched 500 wells in Kuwait, blackening the skies and filling the air with the stench of burning petroleum. By contrast, most bad oil fires only involve a handful of wells.

"It'll definitely be the most wells anybody's attempted to work on at a time," said Raymond Henry, vice president and senior firefighter for Red Adair Co. Inc. The biggest job he can remember came in the 1960s, when an Adair crew spent several weeks putting out five burning wells in Libya.

Adair and Wild Well Control, along with Boots and Coots Inc., the third major oil well firefighting company, have had one big advantage in preparing for the huge job — time.

All three of the Houston-based outfits contracted months ago with the Kuwaiti government, which has long suspected Iraqi troops would set fire to the oil wells on their way out of the country they seized Aug. 2.

Months of planning in an unprecedented luxury in the oil-fighting business, as crews generally have no notice before wells blow.

"There will be a lot larger availability of equipment," Mr. Henry said. "That's usually the time-consuming part. Preparations have been going on some time."

But crews will have to actually arrive at the scene of the burning wells before they can tell much about each blaze. Before that can happen, the military has to eject the Iraqis and clean up obstacles such as land mines, the firefighters said.

Some of the burning oil wells could be extinguished in a few hours, if the blaze is above valves that could be shut, cut-

ting off the supply of oil and gas fuelling the fire, Mr. Henry said.

To put out such a fire, teams spray an enormous volume of water into the area to keep it cool. Firefighters wearing special suits approach the blaze, using shields of corrugated metal to protect themselves from the heat so they can get close enough to close the valve.

If the entire wellhead is destroyed, the firefighters will use explosives to stop the fires by cutting off the oxygen, a process that can take days. They generally use a device known as an atney wagon, a wagon with a long boom. "We mount the explosives on it and back it in with a bulldozer," Mr. Henry said. "You attach the explosives on one end and back it up in there where you want it and shoot it."

That puts out the flames, but oil will keep gushing out of the ground.

"Then you have to put new control valves or a new wellhead," Henry said.

Even though the companies have been preparing to ship supplies to Kuwait, including new wellheads, new tubing and "Christmas trees," the mazes of pipes and valves that go atop oil wells, the logistics of bringing all the equipment, as well as their specialised firefighting gear, to the scene will take months, Mr. Bowden said.

"The continuous logistical problem is going to be as we use stuff, we'll have to keep replacing it — a lot of it," he said.

The companies said it was impossible to estimate the cost of squelching the fires.

Although the number of burning wells is unprecedented, an industry expert in New York said the extent of the damage to Kuwait's production will depend on which wells were damaged.

About 365 wells in Kuwait proper are the largest producers and would pose the greatest problems if they were burning, while an additional 400 to 500 wells in a neutral zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia do not pump nearly as much oil, said John Lichtblau, president of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation.

Bush's statement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here is the transcript of U.S. President George Bush's statement Tuesday morning in response to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's radio statement announcing that Iraqi forces would withdraw from Kuwait:

"Saddam's most recent speech is an outrage. He is not withdrawing. His defeated forces are retreating. He is trying to claim victory in the midst of a rout. And he is not voluntarily giving up Kuwait."

"He is trying to save the remnants of power and control in the Middle East by every means possible. And here too, Saddam Hussein will fail."

"Saddam is not interested in peace, but only to regroup and fight another day. And he does not renounce Iraq's claim to Kuwait. To the contrary, he makes clear that Iraq continues to claim Kuwait. Nor is there any evidence of remorse for Iraq's aggression or any indication that Saddam is prepared to accept the responsibility for the awful consequences of that aggression."

"He still does not accept U.N. Security Council resolutions or the coalition terms of Feb. 22, including the release of our POWs, all POWs, third-country detainees, and an end to the pathological destruction of Kuwait."

"The coalition will therefore continue to prosecute the war with undiminished intensity. As we announced last night, we will not attack unarmed soldiers in retreat. We have no choice but to consider retreating combat units as a threat, and respond accordingly. Anything else would risk additional United States and coalition casualties."

"The best way to avoid further casualties on both sides is for the Iraqi soldiers to lay down their arms as nearly 30,000 Iraqis already have. It is time for all Iraqi forces in the theatre of operation — those occupying Kuwait, those supporting the occupation of Kuwait — to lay down their arms. And that will stop the bloodshed."

"From the beginning of the air operation nearly six weeks ago, I have said that our efforts are on course and on schedule. This morning I am very pleased to say that coalition efforts are ahead of schedule. The liberation of Kuwait is close at hand."

"And let me just add that I share the pride of all of the American people in the magnificent, heroic performance of our armed forces. May God bless them and keep them."

Huge new Gulf oil slick may pose biggest ecology threat

BAHRAIN (R) — U.S. coast-guard pilots have sighted a huge new oil slick in the northern Gulf beneath the polluting smoke pouring from fires in Kuwait.

Gulf environment officials said in Bahrain Tuesday the slick, about 100 kilometres due east of the Saudi-Kuwait border, could pose the biggest threat yet to the ecology and economy of the Gulf states.

"This is new," Abdullah Dabbagh, head of research at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, said at a meeting of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Environment (ROPME).

The Gulf environment is under assault from air and sea by the smoke and spills. Millions of marine creatures have been killed by the clinging, suffocating oil, and the air over the whole northern Gulf is an evil-smelling, blue-black soup.

Gulf health officials have warned people with respiratory problems to stay out of the open air.

Mr. Dabbagh said that two days ago when 200 Kuwaiti wells were burning, he had recorded the dangerous pollutant sulphur dioxide four times higher than safety levels in some areas. Coalition officials say three times as many wells are now alight.

The U.S.-led coalition fighting Iraq has accused Baghdad of purposely releasing the bulk of the oil, and firing hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells and installations. Iraq has denied this.

Preliminary sightings put the new oil slick at tens of kilometres long, said delegates at ROPME, which includes all Gulf littoral states. Iraq was not present at the Bahrain meeting.

The position of the slick combined with Gulf wind and tidal patterns could cause pollution for months to come over a much wider area than other confirmed spills, Mr. Dabbagh told Reuters. According to computer models worked out by his Saudi-based research team, Mr. Dabbagh said

the new oil could drift past Qatar to the southern half of the Gulf and threaten the southeast Iranian coast by the end of June.

He said all predictions remained speculative but "the models have worked fairly well so far."

The coastguard planes, part of an international effort to tackle the disastrous war-related oil spills in the northern Gulf, could not see the full extent of the slick due to the smoke, and restrictions on flying over the war zone.

Youssef Fadallah, a marine biologist at the Fahd university centre, said he had overflown the area in a helicopter but had had to turn back when smoke entered the aircraft.

Estimates of the true amount of oil spilled have varied widely, and Mr. Dabbagh said all forecasts would remain speculative until the environmental teams could study the region freely.

ROPME delegates estimated anything from three to seven million barrels of oil spilled into the Gulf.

One of around 200,000 barrels, which would be considered a major disaster of its own anywhere else, is now floating roughly 80 kilometres due north of the Saudi town of Jubail. Mr. Dabbagh said this could drift to the sea north of Qatar by March 26.

The other much larger slick, which has hit Saudi beaches all along the coast near Jubail, could begin moving again. If it does, Mr. Dabbagh said it could circle around to the eastern Qatar coast after 30 days of drift.

Delegates said oil-eating vessels, which suck up the slicks, have removed around 100,000 barrels of crude from the sea. About six more specialist vessels from Germany are on the way, they said.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are stringing more booms across the inlets to protect essential water desalination and other water-using plants, which the oil could put out of action.

Egyptian students protest war, death of colleague

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian students held a third day of protest against the Gulf war Tuesday and vowed to avenge the death of a colleague in clashes with riot police.

Several hundred students poured off Cairo University campus on Tuesday chanting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak you coward, you are an American agent."

The students earlier chanted: "Khaled, Khaled you martyr, your blood will not go to waste."

Khaled Mohammad Abdul Aziz died on Tuesday afternoon after a fierce clash Monday between riot police and several hundred Cairo University students protesting at the Gulf war.

Protesters said a second student had died in Monday's clashes, but security officers denied the allegation.

Marches and public demonstrations are banned under emergency laws in force since Muslim zealots killed President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Smaller anti-war campus demonstrations were also held in Ain Shams University in Cairo and Mansoura University in the Nile Delta Tuesday.

Riot police were deployed at all three universities and no fresh clashes were reported, security sources said.

A senior state security officer told Reuters police would resume firing tear gas if students tried to take their protest to the streets.

Police fired barrages of tear gas Monday at the Cairo University students and then charged in armoured trucks when students poured off the campus and began throwing stones.

Eight policemen were taken injured and at least 19 students were arrested and 20 taken to hospital, witnesses said.

The security officer said the 19 students were currently being questioned "and their indictment sheet is going to be a long one."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

ICRC sends water purification supplies

LONDON (AP) — The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) send water purification supplies to Baghdad to cope with a serious shortage of drinking water in the city, a British official said. Overseas Aid Minister Lynda Chalker said in a parliamentary statement that the Red Cross had informed the United Nations Sanctions Committee of the move after identifying a critical drinking water shortage in the Iraqi capital. Ms. Chalker said the U.N. committee is monitoring humanitarian circumstances in Iraq and Kuwait, but neither the Red Cross nor the UNICEF-World Health Organisation team in Baghdad has been able to conduct a full assessment.

Bombs explode outside bank in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Bombs exploded outside two local branches of Britain's Barclays Bank in Cyprus, causing light damage but no injuries, police said Tuesday. A device went off outside a branch in Nicosia Tuesday before bomb experts could defuse it, shattering windows. Another damaged a branch in the port city of Limassol on Monday night. The bank has been target of three attacks in Cyprus this month. Cyprus hosts a large British garrison involved in supporting troops in the U.S.-led coalition fighting Iraq. Police and army units have stepped up security since the Gulf war started on Jan. 17. On Feb. 2, a bomb damaged the offices of Barclays Bank and American Express in the port town of Larnaca.

Morocco offers 80 volunteer doctors

RABAT (R) — Morocco has offered to send 80 volunteer doctors and surgeons and 74 nurses to Iraq, the Red Crescent said in a statement published Tuesday. A list of the volunteers and their specialties has been sent to the International Red Cross Committee and the Iraqi Red Crescent. The Moroccan Red Crescent has already sent nearly 100 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment to Iraq.

Saudis ratify joint pact with Syria

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia has ratified an agreement to set up a joint commission with Syria to boost economic and political cooperation, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The commission was initially set up in Damascus Feb. 5 during a visit to Syria by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. SPA quoted Saudi Information Minister Ali Al Shaer as saying Monday that a royal decree to establish the committee was signed by King Fahd who chaired a cabinet session to discuss the Gulf war. Syria, long at odds with Iraq, has sent some 20,000 troops to help U.S.-led allied forces trying to evict Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The commission, to be headed by the foreign ministers of Syria and Saudi Arabia, groups the ministers of finance, economy and information of both states.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

04:47 Fajr
06:05 (Sunrise) Duha
11:49 Dhuhr
15:02 'Asr
17:33 Maghrib
18:50 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will come under the effect of unstable weather conditions Tuesday. Therefore, there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain that might be accompanied by thunder.

Amman Min./max. temp. 4 / 14
Aqaba 12 / 24
Deserts 3 / 16
Jordan Valley 10 / 21

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 743364
Dr. Akram Samhan 894611
Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahim 736072
Dr. Abdul Majid Sharr 740105
Firas Pharmacy 661912
Perdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 625672

EMERGENCIES

Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
IRBID:
Dr. Maan Bargawi (—)
Al Sharras' pharmacy (275822)
ZARQA:
Dr. Yahya Tarif (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

AMMAN:

Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television

Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 774111
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
PJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Atieh Maternity, J. Amn 642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 625622
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital

Al-Muhsib Hospital 845845
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Abi, Abdali 664164/6
Jalal, Al-Muhajreen 777101/5
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 777111/26
Army, Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 672240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)863323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafces Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Banana 500 / 450

Banana (Mukammar)

Beans 450 / 400
Cabbage 560 / 500
Carrot 100 / 60
Cauliflower 200 / 180
Cauliflower 250 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 140 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 180
Dates 300 / 400
Eggplant 180 / 140
Garlic 1400 / 1300
Grapefruit 200 / 150
Lemon 200 / 150
Marrow (large) 160 / 120
Marrow (small) 340 / 280
Onion (dry) 280 / 200
Onion (green) 160 / 120
Okra 600 / 500
Orange 580 / 220
Pepper (hot) 400 / 360
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 150
Potato 150 / 140
Radish 400 / 300
Sage 120 / 80
Spinach 120 / 80
Tomatoes 200 / 150

مكتبة النور



Girls demonstrate near the U.S. embassy in Amman (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Emotion-charged demonstrators hail Saddam, Iraqis

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of demonstrators, mainly women and children, briefly clashed with riot police on Tuesday, on their way from the Iraqi embassy to the American embassy.

Riot police, poised at the Second Circle prevented the marchers from proceeding to the American embassy. The demonstrators, frustrated by the American-led campaign against their brothers in Iraq, tried to penetrate the line of riot police, but were intercepted.

One young man, who walked in the front lines of the demonstration, was hit by one of the riot policemen's clubs, fracturing his arm. No other injuries were reported.

Earlier, the group of young children and women had gathered in front of the Iraqi embassy in a show of support and solidarity with the Iraqi people and leadership. The women shouted pro-Iraqi slogans, and severely condemned the apparent aim of the American-led forces, which is seen as the total destruction of Iraq.

Some women, who openly cried, let out some of their frustration on a number of foreign reporters who ventured out on Tuesday. They accused the reporters of being biased and having double standards in dealing with the Arabs especially during this crisis. "I watch television and I know what kind of reporting you do. It is all lies," shouted an 18 year old girl, at a group of foreign reporters who were trying to film the demonstrations. "Take it easy

puppet leaders we have back to America, you live with them, we don't want them anymore, we are decent, respectable Arabs," another woman said.

"Long live President Saddam Hussein, long live the heroic Iraqi people," "with our souls and our blood we will fight for Saddam," shouted the crowds in apparent rage at what they perceive to be a major massacre and genocide of the Iraqi people. "They want to humiliate Saddam Hussein, but they will never do that, he will live on in our hearts forever," said another woman, who broke out in tears.

The demonstrators, carrying only Iraqi flags and pictures of President Saddam Hussein, held banners that read "Iraq we salute you," "Bush is a killer," "the masks of treachery have been lifted."

One young Iraqi man, who has tea brothers serving in the Iraqi front, stood with the Iraqi flag amid the demonstration reflecting an inner sense of pride. "We (Iraqis) stood up for more than one month in the face of more than thirty nations, and survived, this is a victory for us," he said. He also added "we support Saddam Hussein, and he will never bow. We will respect him and protect him with our lives."

The young man, who preferred anonymity, said that he was a student at the University of Jordan, and that his family was still in Iraq. What if some of your brothers die in combat, he was asked, "then they died an honorable death, martyrs defending the soil of their homeland," he answered proudly.

Driver says civilians hit on Baghdad-Amman road

RUWEISHED, Jordan (R) — A Jordanian truck driver returning from Iraq said a number of civilians were wounded in an allied air attack on the Baghdad-Amman highway before dawn Tuesday.

Qassam Tayel said he had watched a plane fire a salvo of four rockets at civilian cars during the raid in the Al Rutbah area, 170 kilometres east of the Jordanian border, around 2 a.m. (midnight GMT).

"I saw a plane fire four rockets at the same time ... aiming them at civilian cars on the highway," he told Reuters at Jordan's Ruweished border entry post.

"Many people were injured but I did not count them," he said. Tayel had been in a convoy of three trucks and three ambulances that had taken medical

supplies to Baghdad three days ago.

More refugees from war-shattered Kuwait arrived Tuesday after leaving as allied troops launched their ground attack on Sunday.

Eight busloads of Egyptians from Baghdad crossed the border to await transport home from a refugee transit camp.

Imad Saad, a Jordanian said: "We were verred because the fire coming from burning oil wells formed a huge cloud over Kuwait. At night it was like a burning ball."

Arriving refugees, like those the day before, said they knew nothing of allegations that Iraqi soldiers had shot Kuwaiti civilians and committed other atrocities.

Gulf Peace Team delivers 'petition for peace' to U.S. embassy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the Gulf Peace Team delivered a "petition for peace" to the American embassy in Amman Tuesday.

The brief statement calling for an "immediate end to the bombing of Iraq and Kuwait" was signed by Gulf Peace Team members representing ten countries: Belgium, Canada, France, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Romania, Scotland, Britain and the United States.

The one-page statement was hand delivered at 4:23 p.m. inside the American embassy by Gulf Peace Team members Andrew P. Jones from Boston, Massachusetts; Rube Irwin from Washington D.C. and Kathy Kelly from Chicago, Illinois. It was

received by Virginia Murray, Council Officer at the U.S. embassy.

The delivery of the "petition for peace" was accompanied by an hour-long peaceful demonstration by placard-carrying members of the Gulf Peace Team. The demonstration took place in front of the American embassy.

The Gulf Peace Team is an international, multicultural, non-aligned group of individuals committed to peace and justice in the Gulf region.

JORDAN TIMES
667171

Disbelief, anger and despair prevail

Iraqi withdrawal under continued bombardment shocks Jordanians

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians Tuesday received news of Iraq's decision to withdraw its troops out of Kuwait with mixed feelings of anger, disbelief and despair.

In the morning, as foreign agency dispatches and radio stations spoke of the Baghdad announcement as a "fait accompli," many Jordanians still thought the Iraqi announcement on Baghdad Radio was only a ploy. "The announcement just said 'this is Radio Baghdad' while all previous official announcements were always made in the name of the Revolutionary Command Council, so this is an allied trick," said Sami Jundi, a taxi driver. But as 11:00 o'clock approached and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein personally told his people of the Iraqi leadership's decision on Radio Baghdad, reality dawned on most stunned Jordanians.

Recalling how, in the early hours of Jan. 17, they had been made by Western media to think that Iraq had been destroyed after the first day of air bombardment, many Jordanians tuned in on radio station after radio station in order to find reports to the contrary. But such reports were filed by no one.

One Lower House deputy called Iraq's position a victorious one. "Iraq emerged victorious after a 40-day battle," said independent Deputy Fakhri Kawa. Kawa said that he had, however, been surprised that the ground battle for Kuwait had lasted only two days. "We did not think the allies would be defeated but we expected a longer ground battle," he said.

Islamist Deputy Yacoub Garash said that he still had confidence in the competence of the Iraqi leadership and said that Saddam Hussein could not be blamed for the turn of events because, "we, the Arabs failed to come to his side."

Some Jordanians expressed bitterness that Saddam Hussein did not fulfil his promise of turning the battle for Kuwait the "mother of the battles."

"I can't believe that they only lasted two days in the ground battle, after all that he (Saddam Hussein) told us, I'm shocked," said Sumaia Shaker.

Some people predicted that bitterness and resentment towards the West will increase in most parts of the Arab World, and Jordan in particular. "Because of a feeling of humiliation, people will lash out at the West after this is over," said Yousef Maher, a psychologist.

Newspaper columnist Mueness Razzaz predicted that strong liberation movements will emerge in the post-war era just as they had in the post-1967 period. "We will see other extremist groups emerging all over the region," Razzaz said.

Nasser Abu Samra, 28, said "I think he was courageous to withdraw instead of just burning all of Kuwait as he said he would, this is really more honourable." Other young men reacted differently.

Dozens of young men hurried to the local recruitment centre for the Arab-Islamic corps in the hope that their recruitment would somehow turn the tide of events.

While most Jordanians were too numb and shocked and unwilling to speak, even to the Arab press about how they felt, some

said that they saw the retreat coming.

"Of course we are shocked," said Luai Dabbagh, political spokesman for the National Unity Party. "Politically, however, this was expected, ever since Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi leadership agreed to the Gorbachev plan, it was clear there would be a withdrawal," said Dabbagh.

"It could very well be that the Americans will continue shelling the Iraqis all the way to Baghdad," he said. The merciless shelling of the Iraqis by the allied forces, he said, was not to liberate Kuwait but to break the Iraqis completely.

But most Jordanians were incapable of articulating a political analysis on the spur of the moment. "This is a black day for all of us, because an Arab fought an Arab and for what — for the good of Israel and America, it is indeed a black day," said Abu Imad Jarrar.

All Jordanians were stunned that the allied forces had continued to bomb the retreating Iraqi troops. "That, is outrageous," said a shopper in a Shmeisani supermarket who would only identify himself as Abu Radi. "What exactly is it that they want? (the allied troops). To destroy the Arab World?"

Many Jordanians saw the unconditional retreat of the Iraqi troops as a humiliating end to a seven-month saga which many of them thought would lead to resolving many of the region's outstanding, decades-old grievances.

"By linkage we thought we could all be happy," said Emman, a 30-year-old Palestinian teacher. "Now they will link us to the ovens to burn our dreams of



NEWS: Jordanians cling to radios to digest every word being broadcast Tuesday on the Gulf war. (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



justice in Palestine," she added cynically.

Some people thought that one could not say that the war was over. "Let us wait and see what

will happen, this could be the beginning of another battle," said Imad Jarrar.

"Saddam is retreating and now his troops may have to fight so

that the allies don't occupy Iraq," said Dabbagh, fearing the "mother of battles" may still be fought, "not in Kuwait City but in Baghdad."

Iranian official looks forward to boosting ties with Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iran, having resumed diplomatic relations with Jordan after a 10-year break, is looking forward to building strong relations with the Kingdom based on mutual trust and respect, the first Iranian diplomat to take up post here since 1981 said Tuesday.

"There is a lot of possibilities for cooperation in all fields and levels, and we are looking forward to exploring all means and ways towards establishing a strong relationship with Jordan," said Nara Ghian, who arrived late Sunday to reopen the Islamic Republic's diplomatic mission here.

Mr. Ghian, who holds the rank of charge d'affaires and will head the mission here until Tehran formally names an ambassador to Jordan, noted that Jordan and Iran were bound by the common religion, Islam.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, acting from a position of responsibility and in line with Islamic principles and ideals, will seek to cooperate with Jordan in the political sphere," he told the Jordan

Times when asked how Tehran envisaged political relations with the Kingdom.

Although the diplomat, who speaks fluent Arabic, did not make any direct comment on the political position of Jordan, senior Iranian leaders as well as the Iranian media have expressed appreciation of the Kingdom's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East issues, particularly the Gulf crisis. They have also voiced understanding of the Jordanian stand and solidarity with the Kingdom in its refusal to endorse the American-led campaign against Iraq.

"Avenues are there in all fields — economy, trade, culture, religion, technology, expertise, everywhere," Mr. Ghian said when asked whether Tehran was responding positively to possibilities that Jordan might seek Iranian oil to make up for the loss of Iraq supply to the Kingdom.

Mr. Ghian, who served as Iranian charge d'affaires at Tehran's diplomatic mission in Bahrain before posted to Jordan, said he hoped to reopen the Amman embassy by Saturday. He is accompanied by a colleague and is expecting a final decision on

the numerical strength of the mission here by next week.

As Mr. Ghian inspected the premises and prepared to reopen the mission here, his Jordanian counterpart, Mohammad Al Dhaher, headed for the Iranian capital Tuesday on a similar mission.

Trade between Iran and Jordan is expected to rise dramatically in the wake of the resumption of diplomatic relations, Jordanian officials and businessmen say.

The two sides have already signed a deal under which Jordan would export phosphates worth \$66 million to Iran during 1991 and will import Iranian sulphur and related minerals used in the fertiliser industry, officials said.

"Iran is one of the natural markets for Jordanian phosphates, and it is also quite natural that Iran might want to supply us with some of its products in return," said a senior official.

The first consignment of phosphates is scheduled to leave Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba this month.

Trade between the two countries was negligible during the years of war between Iran and Iraq, in which Jordan backed

Iraq, leading to the break in diplomatic relations in January 1981.

According to Jordanian figures, the Kingdom imported Iranian goods — mostly nuts, water melon and melon seeds, raisins and carpets — worth JD 296,400 in 1987 (approximately \$830,000 under the rates prevailing then), JD 1.125 million (\$3.1 million) in 1988 and JD 2.015 (\$3.1 million, reflecting a sharp decline in the value of the dinar), and JD 1.6 million (\$2.4 million) until October 1990.

Jordan started exports — mainly yeast, paint, household plastic products, clothes and shoes — to Iran during 1990, registering a total of JD 760,000 (\$1.1 million). Most of the business was conducted overland through Syria and Turkey.

The Iranian market offers a wide range of opportunities for Jordanian businessmen and many are preparing themselves to travel to Iran as soon as they can obtain a visa with the expected reopening of the Iranian embassy in Amman. Earlier, Jordanians had to obtain Iranian visa from Tehran's mission in Damascus.

Commercial body decides to establish national fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce has decided to create a national fund to help reconstruct the Kingdom's economic ties with other countries and boost trade.

The decision was taken at a general assembly meeting held here under the chairmanship of committee chairman Mr. Mohammad Asfour, who outlined to committee members the various obstacles impeding the growth of the national economy.

The various national economic institutions, Asfour said, are expected to contribute to the establishment of this fund which is bound to benefit the whole country.

In his address, Asfour urged the various economic organisations to strive hard in their search for new markets.

He said that Jordan has been facing the worse effects of the Gulf crisis because it was subjected to an embargo and its Aqaba-bound vessels with Jordan-imported products or those with goods to other countries — have been constantly harassed making it more difficult

for the economic sector and Jordan's trade.

These sanctions imposed on Jordan constituted a flagrant violation of all international trade and navigation rules and prompted the Jordanian government to undertake relentless contacts with the U.N. Security Council, the American administration and international organisations including the International Chamber of Commerce.

Asfour outlined the committee's role in helping to promote Jordan's trade and said that Jordanian businessmen are called on to take part in the coming international Chamber of Commerce meeting.

During the meeting the committee reviewed a report about endeavours to deal with the consequences of the Gulf crisis on Jordan and approved a number of decisions on the agenda.

An appeal was issued at the end of the meeting urging Jordanian businessmen to take part in the meetings of the International Chamber of Commerce to present views and contribute to the revival of the national economy.

Council

(Continued from page 1)

allied ultimatum: President Saddam must "personally and publicly" agree to withdraw his forces.

A U.S. diplomat who emerged from the Security Council meeting said Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari told the council Iraqi troops were withdrawing unconditionally.

Mr. Anbari said Iraq was accepting Resolution 660, the first of the 12 resolutions, which called for Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal.

Mr. Anbari said to reporters that some coalition members, particularly the United States and Israel, have a "hidden agenda against Iraq" and would not be happy to see a ceasefire or total withdrawal.

Before the Soviet ideas were presented officially, diplomats of major Western countries appeared to dismiss them and said Iraq must meet all U.N. resolutions.

The following is a summary of key Security Council demands: — Iraq must withdraw all its forces from Kuwait to the positions in which they were located on Aug. 1, 1990;

— Iraq and Kuwait should begin immediate, intensive negotiations to resolve their differences; — Iraq must rescind its order annexing Kuwait, the legitimate

government of Kuwait must be restored.

— Iraq must release all hostages, permit and facilitate the departure from Kuwait and Iraq of third country nationals and grant access of consular officials;

— Iraq must release all diplomats in Kuwait and comply with international laws on the protection of diplomatic and consular personnel and missions in Kuwait and Iraq;

— Iraq must stop any oppression and mistreatment of Kuwaitis;

— Iraq must ensure immediate access to food, water and basic services to Kuwaitis and nationals of all third states in Kuwait and Iraq;

— Iraq is "reminded" that under international law it is liable for any loss, damage or injury arising in regard to Kuwait and third states, their nationals and corporations. States are "invited" to collect information regarding their claims.

Yemen and Cuba wanted a simple resolution calling for a ceasefire while other nations were receptive to suggestions by India that such a resolution simply calls for Iraqi withdrawal, diplomats said.

Chinese Ambassador Li Daoyu welcomed Iraq's message to Mr. Gorbachev and said he hoped for a "comprehensive peaceful settlement" soon.

هذه امه الوطن

Jordan Times

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Figuring out the obvious

THE SOVIET Communist Party hit it on the nail Monday when its official newspaper Pravda described the U.S.-led allied ground assault on Iraq as a drive for world hegemony. The question that remains is why it took Moscow so long to figure out the obvious. Certainly the Soviet leaders acknowledge that it was also instrumental in granting Washington and its allies a green light in the first place to move military into the Gulf by supporting the various U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted against Iraq, especially Resolution 678. That resolution was exploited and prostituted to the limit by the West in order to facilitate the achievement of the U.S. ambition to become the sole leader of the world.

For the Soviet leadership to come out now and cry wolf is maybe too late and too little. The war in the Gulf is entering its final stage and there is very little that the Soviet Union can do now to salvage the situation that brought it also harm, disgrace and humiliation. Where one would openly disagree with Pravda's Monday report that a prolonged ground war in the Gulf could undermine President Mikhail Gorbachev's standing at home and abroad is that the defiant and arrogant rejection of Gorbachev's peace proposals to end the Gulf war by President George Bush and his allies has already dealt the Soviet leader a devastating blow. Surely the damage to the Soviet Union and its leadership has already occurred with or without a long war. The only thing left for the Soviet Union to do in order to redeem its dwindling prestige in the eyes of the nations that still pin some hope on it is to prevent the kind of surrender and humiliation that Washington and its partners seems to be insisting on inflicting on Iraq and its leadership.

All that is asked of Moscow is to tell the West that enough is enough and that it is prepared to put all its weight behind the efforts to spare Iraq from the designs and conspiracies of Washington, London and Paris. There are many ways available to the Soviets to do just that, the least of which is to have the Security Council about the continuing conspiracies of the West. As Pravda admitted Monday, the West seeks not only political and military hegemony in the world, especially in the Gulf region, but also economic clout in order to control even the world economy and make it subservient to its needs and priorities. This is finding expression in the contracts being given to Western companies to reconstruct Kuwait and Saudi Arabia even before the war have ended.

Meanwhile the Arab World is called upon to draw the necessary conclusions from the Gulf crisis and the war what ensued from it. There are many lessons to be learned from the Gulf situation, above all how to deal with its aftermath. It is premature to prescribe effective antidotes for the catastrophe that befell the Arabs at large and some painstaking analysis and soul searching need to be done first before final pronouncement can be made on it.

What saddens us most in the unravelling situation in the Gulf war is the reality that it is Arab money and resources and people that were and are being used to wreak havoc on another Arab country, Iraq. It is doubtful that the Arab allies in the U.S.-led coalition would ever admit this reality, or accept responsibility in destroying what represented Arab aspirations to life in freedom and dignity, away from foreign tutelage and domination.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THERE is a real competition between the United States, Britain and France in their show of resentment and hatred of the Arab and Muslim people, but the millions of Arabs and Muslims realise that there is no difference between these colonial powers in terms of their loss of all values and meaning of honour, said Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The paper said for the Arabs and Muslims these three powers represent barbarism and aggression which resulted in the massacring of innocent women and children and the destruction of churches and mosques and shelters. Britain and the United States have all along proved determined to remain loyal to their colonial ideologies, but France which was transformed into a peace-loving nation by Charles de Gaulle in the 1960s is now taking a U-turn under the socialist regime, and adopting all forms of policies that can only display French hatred of Arabs and Muslims, and can show the real racist nature of the French people and their leaders, the paper noted. In pursuit of its new policies, the French government has just taken a decision to stifle the Islamic broadcasting station in Marseilles and to deprive 200,000 Muslims of the right to have their own schools and to learn their own language and religion, the paper noted. It said that by taking an active part in the aggression on Iraq, France has proved to be the true model of a country subjugated to and under the mercy of a superpower like the United States. Despite President Mitterrand's statement expressing pride in taking a decision ordering his troops to take part in the ground offensive on Iraq, the Arabs realise that the decision was American and that the orders came from Washington and not Paris, said the paper. All France's behaviour during and before the war indicates that Paris has lost all of its will power and its independent policy.

Now that everybody realises that Israel is the sole beneficiary from the Gulf war, one has to remember that it was Jordan which had right from the start tried to prevent the conflict and to contain the issue and has been relentless in its endeavours to prevent any Arab country from being involved in the crisis, said Al Dustour daily Tuesday. Jordan was one of the Arab countries which refused to take a bribe or sell out its honour and dignity, and one that has been calling for an Arab-Arab dialogue to find an acceptable formula for a settlement, said the paper. In response to its stand and for its efforts to avert any war in the Gulf, Jordan became the subject for attack, for harassment and for economic sanctions imposed by certain Arab and foreign nations, the paper continued.

Peter and crew head north; the war goes on, and we pray

By Geraldine Sharpe Newton

THE house is in the middle of English countryside sheltered by the branches of an old cedar tree. Now the daffodils are pushing their heads through the snow hoping to be in blossom for an English spring. My fiancée, Yorkshire born Peter Bluff, CBS news London bureau chief, left home when the ground was brown and hard. He spent New Year in Baghdad and headed to Saudi Arabia before the Jan. 15 deadline. He did not believe there would be a war.

I woke up on the first Sunday of the war, Jan. 20, to a blue sky, a perfect English countryside day, and knew with some kind of premonition that my world was never going to be the same again.

On Jan. 21, four CBS journalists went missing on the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Correspondent Bob Simon, cameraman Roberto Alvarez, soundman Juan Caldera and producer Peter Bluff.

When Peter and the crew

went "up the road" four weeks ago, it was a different conflict. During those heady "quick victory" days, several journalists were operating outside "pool" restrictions. The road was busy. There was the feeling that it would be over in 72 hours. The French television network TFI as well as other cameramen and journalists had been to the border. The allied military briefings told us the Iraqi air force was weak and Iraqi Scud launchers were being destroyed. The Independent ran a front page story about allied soldiers without maps. Under these circumstances, Peter and Bob had drawn up plans to go to the border.

Peter and Bob are experienced journalists. Both have earned the high esteem of their fellow journalists. Both men have won international news Emmy awards. They were relaxed about the journey. All four men had gone "up the road" before in Vietnam. Beirut. Central America and

all over the Middle East. Journalists work that way, attempting to go a bit further so that we at home actually know what is happening at the front, or on the other side.

Peter Bluff, Bob Simon, Roberto Alvarez and Juan Caldera wanted to tell us something new, to report on what the fight was for. They wanted to give a sense of a border that has no tree, nothing that is green. Just a road that leads into a changing beige landscape of desert.

The Saudi military found their car 72 hours after they left. In the car they found luggage, some cash, some camera gear, Juan Caldera's Nicaraguan passport, crisps and gasmask.

My days are different now. There is no future time, no planning for next week, just each new day looming ahead. Each day has people to talk to, advice to seek, letters to write, strategy to contemplate and activate or reject. On the 31st day, Feb. 21, there was no

thing special to do. I divide those 24 hours into blocks, morning, afternoon and darkness. My time is based on Gulf daylight hoping there may be another announcement.

I heard the first news on Feb. 15. CBS called at five minutes to eleven and my great friend and colleague Jack Smith out: "put on CNN, Peter Arnett has word on the men." I stood in my office surrounded by my staff and heard, "I have good news to report today. I can confirm that the CBS news staff reported missing in Saudi Arabia-Kuwait border several weeks ago are being held in Baghdad by the Iraqi government. I'm told that the four are still being investigated by the Iraqi intelligence service to determine the full circumstances of their capture and to make recommendation on the disposition of the cases."

They were alive, they were well. I was numb with relief. I thought, is this it, are we finally going to see them? Is it over? I saw on the computer

screen a single short line from the AP announcing "Iraq to pull out of Kuwait." The four CBS journalists slipped out of sight as the bigger news took over. They would understand wherever they were that they were no longer the lead. We have to keep waiting.

In the morning I'm at my most hopeful but as the day advances one realises that the window for another announcement slowly slips away. With the darkness, the bombs being and another day is lost.

Each day brings fresh pictures of death and destruction which show us what war is all about. War is not neat. It is not video screens and press conferences that show us what looks like video games. Those explosions we watch hit a target. Concrete crumbles. Metal twists, and blackens. People scream with pain and grief. People die. Death in a shelter concentrates and focuses the horror.

We are told lots of things in war. Each side tells its people

right is on their side. Journalists work during war time often at great risk to bring the reality of the bombs, the battles and the bombardments to the people at home. Journalists must report so we can judge. In this war, as in all wars, journalists have gone where the battle is joined. To the front lines with the allied troops, to the no-man's land where Peter, Bob, Roberto and Juan went, and finally to Baghdad. I am proud of all these journalists.

The American poet Robert Frost in his poem "The Road Not Taken" wrote "Two roads diverged in a wood and I... took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference." That grey morning, Jan. 20, the road the CBS men took went a bit too far.

An so we wait, the war continues and we pray for peace. The writer is head of press and public affairs at the British Independent Television News, ITN. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

U.N. and the Gulf — abysmal failure

By Anthony Goodman
Reuters

UNITED NATIONS — When the guns began to roar in the Gulf early on Sunday, U.N. Security Council members huddled for less than an hour before deciding — some with anguish, others with relief — that there was nothing further they could do for the present.

Was this an abysmal dereliction of duty on the part of an organisation established on the ashes of World War II to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war?"

Or had the United Nations already performed as its founders intended?

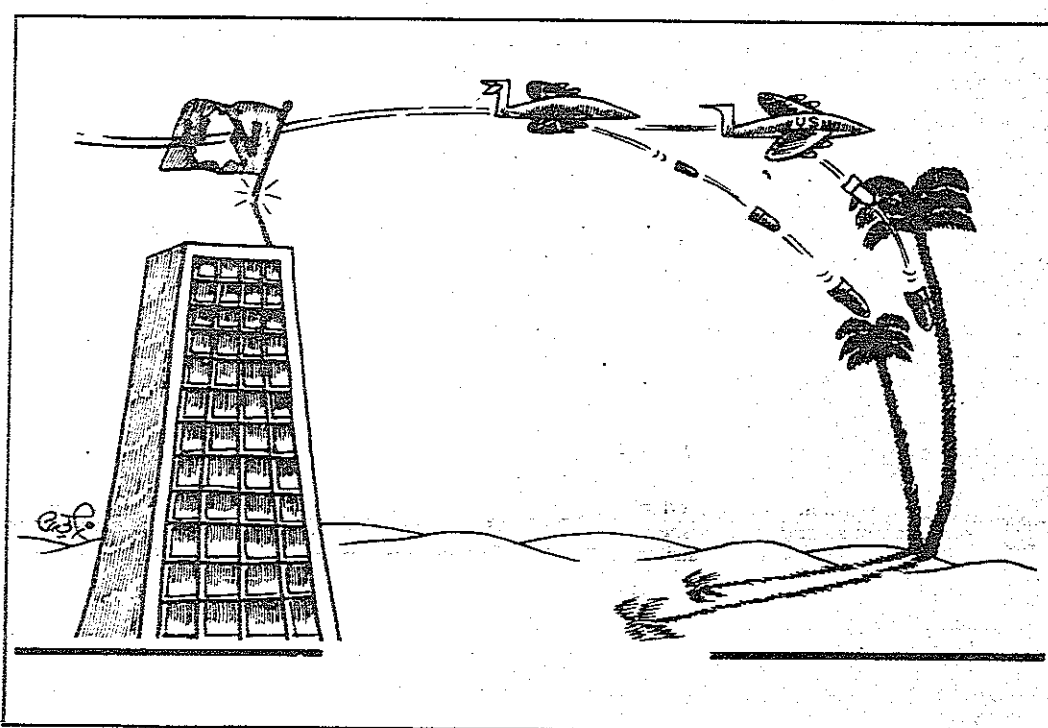
In the months that followed President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait last Aug. 2, the Security Council fired off a dozen resolutions condemning Iraq, demanding its withdrawal, fashioning an ever-tightening noose of economic sanctions and, finally, authorising the use of force after a Jan. 15 deadline.

This, many observers said, was the role the United Nations had been intended to perform but had been prevented from doing because of the cold war.

Before the advent of President Mikhail Gorbachev and the dawn of perestroika, the Soviet Union might well have used its veto in the Security Council to shelter Iraq, a long-time ally and arms purchaser, from the harshest consequences of its invasion.

Only once before, in 1950, when Moscow was boycotting the Security Council over U.N. failure to seat the newly installed communist Chinese government, had the world body authorised the use of force, against North Korea.

But if the Soviet Union, for a variety of reasons, kept in



step with its new-found American friend, other members of the council had their doubts from the start.

Yemen, the only Arab member, and Cuba, locked in enmity with the United States, either abstained or voted against a number of his resolutions. And China abstained on the key use-of-force resolution.

Many observers said the council was being transformed into an instrument of the U.S.-led coalition bent on using any means to roll back and then smash the Iraqi leader.

But the council's actions were gradual, leaving time for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to use his extensive diplomatic skills to persuade Iraq to withdraw.

A meeting in Amman last summer with Iraqi Foreign

Minister Tariq Aziz and an encounter in Baghdad with President Saddam Hussein shortly before the Jan. 15 use-of-force deadline, reportedly proved fruitless.

On Saturday, after five weeks of intensive air attacks, Iraq accepted a Soviet plan for a ceasefire, to be followed by a three-week pullout and then the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

But the Soviet terms were termed "unacceptable" to the U.S.-led alliance, which the day before had set a noon est (1700 GMT) Saturday deadline for the start of a large-scale Iraqi withdrawal. This was to be completed within one week, with all U.N. sanctions remaining in place.

Throughout Saturday, desultory attempts were made by the Soviet Union and non-

aligned council members to try to reconcile the divergent terms set by Moscow and Washington.

The talking continued through the ultimatum deadline and into the night.

Then, as diplomats were finishing dinner, came word of the start of the ground offensive.

As they trooped back to the United Nations for another round of private consultations, it was apparent the council could do nothing further, at least for now.

"It is a sad day for the United Nations. The Security Council is the first victim of this ground war," said ambassador Abdallah Al Ashtal of Yemen. "The council is eclipsed at this point. It is on the periphery."

Bush targets Saddam in arousing U.S. support for Gulf war

By Laurence McQuillan
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President George Bush is using war passions to whip up the emotions of Americans against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein — turning the international conflict into a personal grudge match between two men who disdain each other.

Bush, who shifts to compassionate tones when describing the Iraqi people, does little to conceal his contempt for their leader — whose name he spits out as soon as it forms on his lips.

Soon after the showdown began with the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, Bush began telling Americans that "Saddam" was akin to Adolf Hitler, describing him as a "brutal dictator" guilty of countless crimes against humanity.

President Saddam, for his part, has branded Bush as "treacherous" and "despicable," and urged his countrymen to join in a "holy war" against the "infidel." Bush's personal dislike of Saddam, which aides say borders on

an obsession, flares publicly in angry barbs tossed at the man rather than his minions.

"Saddam has now launched a scorched-earth policy against Kuwait," Bush said in setting the deadline for withdrawal from Kuwait.

The unmet ultimatum was also personalised — it was Saddam not the Iraqis that Bush ordered out of Kuwait by noon EST (1700 GMT) on Saturday — and quickly followed by the massive allied ground assault.

Bush charged that at the same time Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was seeking a last-minute peaceful solution, "Saddam Hussein was launching Scud missiles" against Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The personalised nature of the attacks have paid off in broad public support from a nation still scarred by the memories and pain of a long and fruitless debacle in Vietnam.

Many Americans questioned whether the national will would ever again allow for combat in a far off land that had no immediate links to the United States.

A public opinion poll published on Sunday found that 81 per cent of Americans approve of the war with Iraq, with 61 per cent of them endorsing the need to enter its ground phase.

The most telling response in the survey conducted for the Washington Post and the ABC television network, however, was to the objective of the war.

Only 26 per cent felt the overriding goal should be the ouster of Iraq from Kuwait, the official aim of U.S. policy. The majority joined Bush in his personal feud, with 71 per cent seeking Saddam's removal.

Bush and the members of his administration have gone out of their way to draw a distinction between Saddam and the country he leads.

"I'm reluctant to predict what will happen inside Iraq," said Defence Secretary Dick Cheney of Saddam during a broadcast interview on Sunday.

"Clearly, this is a man who has made some tremendous misjudgments," Cheney said. "He has to have made more significant mis-

judgments than any individual in modern times."

"He's put his country through terrible travail for absolutely no purpose whatsoever," he said on the CBS television programme "Face the Nation."

"I can't conceive of a situation in which a man like that would still be governing his country after those kinds of disasters," he said.

Bush, after dodging questions about ousting Saddam from power for the first six months of the crisis, publicly proposed the idea in recent days.

He asked the Iraqi people, particularly the military, to "take matters" into their own hands and force Saddam Hussein, the dictator, to step aside.

Bush called such a move, tied with withdrawal from Kuwait, a way to "instantly stop the bloodshed."

A U.S. administration official, asked to explain why Bush spoke publicly about a thought he had kept private, said: "Saddam got to him."

LETTERS

You never know

To the Editor:

IT is with great pleasure that I relate the following circumstances. Rarely in my travels, have I been so impressed with what I've seen.

First, let me say that being of African descent, I have a natural affinity with those who like me have dark skins and woolly heads. That doesn't mean that I reject others, it just means that given the history of slavery and oppression around the world perpetrated against the man whose skin is black, that this has created a common, if not distant emotional bond between us.

During my stay here I was fortunate enough to visit a school attended by children of prominent officials. The occasion was a bazaar, a day of celebration put on the school's PTA which was trying to raise money for aid to Iraqi children. The event was well attended and well organised. The children's fashion show and choir concerts were particularly inspiring.

The halls of the school were decorated with art work and essays done by students at the school. The common themes were peace and war expressed through letters to Bush and colourful painting depicting the children's ideas about the Gulf war.

It was in this context that I met Mohammad Sati, a slim handsome Palestinian who could easily be mistaken for an African-American. We struck up a conversation and as it happens a lot of the work was done by his students in the school. I asked him if I could come to his class, as I was at the time shooting a documentary on children of Amman, Jordan. I had already been to another school.

I arrived at his school a couple of days later and he introduced me to his 6th grade class. The children were extremely bright and asked penetrating questions, some of which were difficult to answer. Mohammad had informed the students beforehand of my expected arrival. Much to my surprise he had arranged for them to create artwork depicting the activities and ideas of the Gulf Peace Team.

The students asked leading questions and then launched into concentrated work for several minutes. The colours flowed, pinks, aquas, blues, reds. Tiny hands created peace signs, missiles, children's faces, bombs and doves. We ran out of time, of course, and the children didn't want to leave.

A couple of days later, I returned with television crews from CBS, ITN, WTN and ZDF there was an air raid drill scheduled for that day. We photographed the children scurrying to the shelter (by the way the whole made it into the shelter in 2 minutes, 9 seconds, that's including the kindergarten kids... not bad!!). All the crews took pictures of and commented on the inspired artwork of the children, displayed in the halls.

I had brought another member of the Gulf Peace Team who later spoke to the children in Mohammad's class. It was another section that had even tougher questions on the matter of peace. After our question and answer session, the class from a couple of days earlier came running in and eagerly took out their finished material. The idea was to have them display the finished work. They would then communicate their methods and ideas to the camera and the rest of the class.

One by one the children described their work as fellow classmates watched and listened silently. They spoke eloquently as they explained the symbols they had created. I recorded the entire class. It was definitely my most pleasant experience in the Middle East thus far.

I am a teacher. I teach journalism to students at Northeastern University, the largest private university in the United States, located in Boston. Any teacher anywhere can attend the class of another teacher and within minutes be able to discern the job being done by the instructor.

Mohammad Sati is an excellent teacher and his students love him. I could see it in their eyes and in the zest they applied to their work.

Later, I spoke to him about racial discrimination in Jordan. He told me that he loves his students and respects his colleagues. He said that at no point has he felt any discrimination against him at the school even though he is the only black teacher and has no black students.

I told him I envied him. I said that in almost every institution in the United States, there is an undercurrent of racism. I said further that African-Americans are generally the last to get hired and the first to get fired. We agreed that the world has come a long way but that it still has a long way to go.

As an African-American, I was impressed to see someone with whom I could identify teaching students of prominent decision-makers. In later years, when these beautiful young people are themselves heads of state, they will no doubt remember this black man who inspired them to create for peace.

I wish Mohammad a long and happy career as an instructor at his school. I congratulate the administrators on their open-mindedness and fairness at hiring a man whose skin is black but whose heart is as pure as snow. I hope it will set a small but significant example for those in a far more racist country called the United States. You never know!

Andrew P. Jones,
Assistant Professor,
School of Journalism,
Northeastern University,
USA.

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

disaster as a result of their being deprived of water, food, medicine and power.

Forty days of intense bombardment of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities have crippled Iraq, and reports have underlined the looming threat of epidemics as a result of people forced to consume contaminated water. There is also an acute shortage of medicine as well as foodstuff, according to reports.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Masri contacted several of his Arab counterparts over the phone and exchanged views with them on the "necessary steps to be taken at this stage to arrange a ceasefire to end the fighting and support efforts to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 660," Petra said.

The council was meeting Tuesday evening, and Iraq and the Soviet Union were reported to have informed council members earlier in the day of the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Mr. Masri also contacted Jordan's permanent representative at the U.N. Abdullah Salah and asked him to coordinate efforts with Arab and other ambassadors at the world body, including those of the five permanent members of the Security Council, to bring about a ceasefire in the war, the agency added.

There was no official statement by late Tuesday on the situation in the Gulf war.

American-led allied forces continued attacks on Iraqi troops withdrawing from Kuwait to southern Iraq after U.S. President George Bush rejected the Iraqi pullout, announced by President Saddam Hussein earlier in the day.

Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin, in an informal press briefing Tuesday morning, said that the most important thing in Jordan's view at this point is to bring about a ceasefire in the war so that the Iraqi troops can withdraw from Kuwait in an orderly manner.

In Algiers, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Tuesday urged Soviet, European and Arab support for a ceasefire in the Gulf.

He said reporters after talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid that the United States and its allies must be stopped from continuing the war, after Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"The important thing is that Arab, Islamic, Soviet and certain European efforts be united to achieve a ceasefire and reach a global peace in the region," he was quoted as saying by the Algerian news agency APS.

He said that "the objective of this war is not to liberate Kuwait but to attack the Iraqi people, destroy its military forces, impose the new American order and enslave this region."

"The situation requires more than ever a firm position by the Arab World alongside Iraq to at least stop this mad war of vengeance which has destroyed the infrastructure of Iraq and exceeded United Nations resolutions," Mr. Arafat said.

Also in Algiers, Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir praised Baghdad's decision to withdraw from Kuwait but said allied forces would probably press on with the Gulf war.

General Bashir told a news conference the allies still wanted to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein but he said he hoped the U.S.-led coalition would accept a

ceasefire.

"There is a serious attempt by our brothers in Iraq to stop the destruction and bloodletting," Gen. Bashir said.

"We hope the allied forces respond positively to this demand but we expect they will insist on fighting further because their goal has developed into a change of the regime in Iraq."

He said it had become clear that the allies wanted nothing short of a total Iraqi surrender, not what he called a tactical retreat "to preserve Iraqi forces."

Libya said it will not tolerate allied attacks on Iraq following its acceptance to quit Kuwait.

The official Libya news agency IANA quoted Foreign Minister Ibrahim Muhammad Al Bishari as saying: "After Iraq's decision to completely and unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait, it is unacceptable to continue to chase Iraq and pursue the war against it."

Al Khobar

(Continued from page 1)

destroyed an Iraqi missile fired towards the island overnight.

"Ground defences detected an Iraqi missile directed towards Bahrain and it was destroyed," the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency (GNA) quoted a military spokesman as saying.

There was no damage. A missile fired at Doha, capital of Qatar, came down in an uninhabited area, Saudi Radio reported.

"The Iraqi aggressor last night fired a missile in the direction of Doha. The Qatari News Agency said the missile fell in an uninhabited area and that no damage was caused," the radio reported.

Martial law

(Continued from page 1)

eve of the Iraqi invasion. About 900,000 of them were Kuwaiti, nearly one third of whom were holidaying abroad.

The emir's move was hinted at earlier by a government minister and provoked concern from pro-democracy activists that the government might not be willing to honour its pledge to respect a 1962 constitution viewed by most Kuwaitis as genuinely democratic.

Citing security concerns, the government has already ruled out early elections for a new parliament to replace a 75-seat, largely ceremonial house elected last June-10 and boycotted by some 30 former deputies leading the pro-democracy movement.

The activists began their campaign in December 1989 to demand the return of a parliament elected in 1985 and dissolved by the emir a year later.

A leading activist told Reuters last week that the movement wanted a national reconciliation government to run Kuwait until fresh elections were held.

Officials of the government-in-exile were preparing to move to a location in "an eastern province" of Saudi Arabia to be ready to return to their homeland and restore the government as quickly as possible.

Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

war began that Soviet-U.S. relations could be endangered. Kremlin spokesmen had repeatedly stressed that Soviet-U.S. relations should not be soured by differences over the war.

Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait brought unprecedented joint action by the United States

and the Soviet Union, which was Baghdad's chief arms supplier for two decades.

Both countries condemned the invasion and backed economic sanctions against Iraq. The Soviet Union, while maintaining close contacts with Baghdad, also backed a U.N. resolution endorsing the use of force.

But as the conflict escalated to an all-out land attack by the U.S.-led coalition, Soviet officials expressed growing concern Washington's policies could cause destability in the region.

Soviet-U.S. relations have also been strained by Moscow's military action against the rebel Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia as well as disputes over arms control.

The Soviet Union said Tuesday it believes Iraq's announced withdrawal from Kuwait satisfies "all interested parties" in the Gulf war, and urged the United Nations to call an immediate ceasefire.

The Soviet statement came after Saddam Hussein said on Baghdad Radio his forces were leaving Kuwait and declared the emirate is no longer part of Iraq.

"It is everyone's interest that the war end today," said Vitaly Ignatenko, spokesman for President Gorbachev. "Saddam Hussein has practically thrown out the white flag. He has capitulated."

Mr. Ignatenko said Cuba and Yemen supported an immediate ceasefire during a closed meeting of the U.N. Security Council, but the United States and Belgium sought a postponement to obtain "firm guarantees that Iraq (will) comply with all resolutions of the Security Council."

The White House Tuesday sharply criticised President Saddam's statement, saying it "contains the same diatribe as his comments, with no commitment to comply with the 12 United Nations resolutions."

"The war goes on," Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in Washington. The White House also rejected an earlier Baghdad Radio declaration of the withdrawal, insisting President Saddam personally announce Iraq's defeat and promise to pay war reparations. It also said Iraqis must lay down their arms.

In the earlier briefing Tuesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov said, "We hope that wisdom, common sense and our conscience would tell us that this chance should be duly used in order to put an end to bloodshed. All the necessary prerequisites are thus created for such an outcome."

The envoy said President Saddam sent a message to Mr. Gorbachev late Monday saying Iraqi troops had begun withdrawing from Kuwait.

Mr. Belonogov, who has been closely involved in Soviet-Iraqi peace negotiations, quoted the message as saying all Iraqi troops would be gone "in a very limited time frame" which he would not define.

He said that at President Saddam's request, the Soviet ambassador at the United Nations was instructed to propose "an immediate decision on the issue of a ceasefire."

Mr. Belonogov said Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz delivered the presidential message to the Soviet embassy in Baghdad. The message was immediately relayed to the White House and to the Security Council, he said.

"We would like to hope that such a declaration of the Security Council would be unanimous and that it would facilitate the

speediest possible end to bloodshed and an end to hostilities," Mr. Belonogov said.

"We proceed from the premise that this new step on the part of the Iraqi leadership would satisfy all interested parties," Mr. Belonogov said. He said Iraq "is not posing any pre-conditions" for withdrawing.

Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

coming night hours," said the Iraqi military spokesman.

Declaring Iraq had scored a moral victory over the allies, President Saddam went on Baghdad Radio to say all troops would be back inside Iraq by midnight (2100 GMT), Tuesday.

"This day... our great armed forces will continue its withdrawal from Kuwait and complete it on this day," President Saddam said in his mid-morning address.

His 30-minute speech, partly drowned out by wailing air raid sirens, lauded the bravery of Iraqi forces.

"You have faced 30 countries and the evil they have brought here... you have faced the whole world brave Iraqis," he declared. "You have won... you are victorious."

President Saddam said that Kuwait — which he declared Iraq's 19th province after last August's invasion — was no longer part of Iraq from Monday night.

He paid tribute to the Iraqi people for holding up for six months against the international economic embargo and subsequent military action by the alliance.

President Saddam said the Palestinian "problem will be solved by the will of (the Palestinian) people at another time."

President Saddam accused the multinational coalition, "led by the treacherous president of America," of practicing "predetermined aggression against Iraq and the Arab Nation and the Islamic World."

"We have faced this coalition of 30 countries. Good will triumph over evil... you have won... you have chosen the right path."

"But the evildoers have insisted on their path, thinking they can impose their will on Iraq. They will continue their aggression even after our withdrawal from Kuwait, so our readiness to fight must be at the highest level."

The sound of air raid sirens briefly drowned out the radio transmission of President Saddam's speech near the end.

CNN correspondent Peter Arnett reported celebrations in the streets of Baghdad following the radio address. People throughout Baghdad gathered around battery powered radios to listen to the speech.

Many Iraqis expressed happiness at news they hoped would bring peace. "Nobody wants war. We all lose. We kill each other," one man told Arab reporters.

But reporters who toured the city after the speech said any joy was restrained by concern the war would continue, fear for soldiers still on the front and anguish at the devastation caused to Iraq by allied bombardment.

Two men in Baghdad spice bazaars went to hearing that their country was overmatched on the battlefield.

"We feel stabbed in the back by the Arabs" who failed to come to Iraq's aid, said one of the two. News of the withdrawal came despite earlier reports that Iraqi

troops were heading back the allied ground onslaught that started Sunday.

Newspapers Tuesday headlined the announcement that Iraq had ordered its troops to withdraw. But the news arrived so late that some of the papers still carried front-page editorials written earlier that called on the troops to fight on and promising military victory.

Battle

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi forces as they pulled back. "The enemy is still interfering in the withdrawal of our forces... this cowardly act exposes (his) mean attitude," the radio said.

Kuwait City was reported to have been taken by the allies, although some accounts said Iraqi soldiers trapped at the international airport of the emirate were putting up stiff resistance against the assault.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had ordered his troops to pull back into Iraq by midnight Tuesday, but it could not be established immediately how far this was achieved, particularly that the allies were blocking their withdrawal at Basra, in southern Iraq.

"Saddam is not interested in peace, but only to regroup and fight another day," Mr. Bush contended in a brief speech televised nationwide.

"The coalition will therefore continue to prosecute the war with undiminished intensity," Mr. Bush declared (see page 2). At a U.S. military briefing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Brigadier General Richard Neal said, "The Iraqi army is in full retreat." He described the Iraqi forces as "collapsing across the front."

"We have seen no indication they are laying down their weapons," said Gen. Neal. "Quite the opposite, we are engaged with them; we are in pursuit of them; they're stopping and fighting. We are overwhelming them and defeating them in place."

A senior Pentagon official quoted in the Washington Post on Tuesday said U.S. strategy is to capture the strategic southeastern portion of Iraq and retain the territory as a bargaining chip during peace talks.

The United States expects to finish the war "in possession of a large chunk of southeastern Iraq," the official told the newspaper.

This strategy also is intended to undermine President Saddam and his government, senior administration officials said.

Baghdad Radio reported that President Saddam had visited his troops to be briefed on preparations to "repel any aggressive attempt aimed at undermining... Iraq."

Military sources in Washington said U.S. troops racing across southern Iraq had reached the Euphrates River and cut off the Iraqi line of retreat.

Some 500,000 of the Iraqi soldiers — half the army, including the Republican Guards — were trapped in the war zone, according to Western military sources in Saudi Arabia.

In Paris, French military sources said their troops had advanced some 160 kilometres into Iraq from Saudi Arabia. France had said that its troops would not enter Iraqi territory.

Military spokesmen said allied forces were advancing to Kuwait City to meet up with Kuwaiti fighters holding the capital.

British government officials said the allies' aim was to neutralise Iraq's military machine in

Kuwait, with the Republican Guards a prime target.

A reporter for the U.S. television network CBS, broadcasting live from Kuwait City, said Iraqi troops had left.

"There is no question Kuwait City is a free city," added correspondent Bob McKeown.

But U.S. marines fought an intense tank battle with Iraqi armoured divisions near Kuwait international airport on the southern outskirts of the capital.

U.S. planes swooped on Iraqi forces streaming "bumper to bumper" north from Kuwait City picking them off with cluster bombs, pilots on the U.S. aircraft carrier Ranger said.

"It's not going to take too many more days until there's nothing left of them," Captain Ernest Christensen said.

The pilots said the Iraqis were fleeing north towards the city of Basra, presenting large targets.

Huge B-52 bombers were dropping 500-kbombs on the highways north of Kuwait City, they added.

The allies had joined battle with the 150,000-strong Republican Guard divisions, the cream of the Iraqi armed forces and a pillar of the government.

Almost all the allies in the coalition appeared to support the U.S. position and approach. Predictably, Britain was the most vociferous of the lot.

Syria whose President Hafez Al Assad is a bitter foe of President Saddam, blamed what it called "the catastrophe" on the

Iraqi leadership.

"The Iraqi regime is not aiming at saving the Iraqi people and its economic and military potential. Rather it is aiming at saving the regime and saving its face," said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

Egypt, which with Syria is participating in the multinational force, said the withdrawal was not enough.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said the fighting would end only after Iraq accepted all the U.N. resolutions.

British Defence Minister Tom King said: "The picture... is confused, and there is certainly no clear overall pattern of a total withdrawal."

A senior British official said Iraqi forces must abandon their weapons in the theatre of operations, including areas of Iraq, and withdraw, only then could a ceasefire be considered.

Iraq "has not accepted full implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions. In his message he has shown he is not even abandoning his claims on Kuwait," he added.

But France, the third biggest Western member of the coalition after the United States and Britain, said Iraq "has at last decided to talk seriously" in announcing a withdrawal and recognising Kuwait as a separate entity.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said, however, that Iraq must comply with "all pertinent United Nations resolutions" before a ceasefire could be agreed.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Iraq seemed to be moving towards implementing its pledge to withdraw from Kuwait.

Iran

(Continued from page 1)

Radio Tuesday and announcing Iraqi troops would withdraw from Kuwait, IRNA said.

Tehran Radio said the Iraqi move could lead to peace, but perceived U.S. insistence on toppling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein could deepen the crisis.

It said President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani spoke of "incorrect calculations of Iraqi leaders and their delay in deciding to pull out of Kuwait" in a meeting with India's former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, in Tehran on a Gulf peace mission.

"When (peace) efforts were on the verge of bearing fruit, opportunities were lost one after the other and at every stage the United States and its allies had a suitable excuse to increase the pressure," Rafsanjani said.

Tehran Radio said the decision to end Kuwait's almost seven months of occupation was "accompanied by a deadly deal — the Iraqi leader could make the decision earlier based on whatever reason which made him submit now."

The delay had grave consequences, it said, "the least of which is the slaughter of people and destruction of infrastructural facilities in Iraq and Kuwait, which formed a major part of the Islamic World's wealth."

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Maradona suspension request withdrawn

By Reuters

ITALIAN champions Napoli, at peace with captain Diego Maradona, have withdrawn a request that the volatile Argentine be suspended.

Napoli were due to go before the Italian Football Federation's Arbitration Council on March 1 to request Maradona's indefinite suspension after repeated breaches of club discipline.

The controversial midfielder has already paid 50 million lire (\$3,500) in fines for disciplinary offences this season.

Now, however, all is peace and light, according to Maradona.

"More than ever I want to play," Maradona wrote in a regular column for the Napoli newspaper Roma. "People be calm. I will go only at the end of the season."

Maradona has attended every training session since Feb. 8 and has been a key figure in recent league and cup wins over Parma, Bologna and Genoa.

With Maradona back in the fold, Napoli have been quick to deny newspaper reports that they were interested in buying Tottenham and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne.

"We're not interested in Gascoigne," said the club's commercial manager, Luciano Moggi.

"Gascoigne is a good player but he is English and as such is not much suited to our championship."

In Spain, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid were preparing for Wednesday's Spanish Cup second round, second leg tie. The first leg ended in a 1-1 draw.

Real will be without Mexican hotshot Hugo Sanchez, who strained a thigh muscle in training last week and missed last weekend's 2-0 win over Real Zaragoza, and Romanian striker Gheorghe Hagi.

Atletico will be boosted by the return of Portuguese captain Paulo Futre, suspended for the past three matches for insulting a referee. His prolific Austrian striker Gerhard Ro is still recovering from a broken cheekbone.

In the French League, three matches were scheduled for Wednesday night — but all were overshadowed by financial problems.

Nancy, French national coach Michel Platini's former team, meet Nantes. Both clubs are heavily in debt and worried about their future in professional soccer.

Nancy will be missing Polish international Richard Tarsiewicz, who was suspended indefinitely by FIFA, soccer's world governing body, Friday after the club failed to pay his transfer fee to Neuchatel Xamax of Switzerland.

New Nancy President Gerard Parentin, whose predecessor Jacques Brzezinski was charged in a drugs case last week, said he hoped an agreement may be found with the Swiss club.

"We have had talks with Neuchatel. A solution may be found," he said Tuesday. Nancy have an estimated deficit of 35 million francs (\$7 million).

Nantes have liabilities estimated at 36 million francs. Their players threatened to go on strike last week because their wages had not been paid for two months.

Brest, whose debts amount to 115 million francs (\$23 million), host Lyon, while Toulon, rocked by a financial scandal in which eight people have been charged in recent months, travel to Lille.

Bordeaux, the leading French club of the 1980s, face relegation to the second division after going into receivership last week with debts of 350 million francs (\$70 million).

According to French League

rules, clubs going into receivership face automatic relegation at the end of the season.

In England, Nottingham Forest kept alive their Football Association (F.A.) Cup hopes Monday with another late goal when they scraped a 1-1 draw in their fifth round match against Southampton.

After Southampton had taken a second-minute lead, Forest's England midfielder Steve Hodge forced a replay next Monday by turning a Roy Keane cross into the net 10 minutes from the end.

They then survived two minutes from the end when Southampton's Rod Wallace volleyed against the underside of the bar only for the ball to rebound safely.

In the previous round a last minute equaliser from Nigel Clough rescued Forest against Newcastle before they went on to win the replay.

The winners between Southampton and Forest will be away to Norwich in the quarter-finals.

Meanwhile Luxembourg soccer coach Paul Philipp is pessimistic about his side's chances of winning their first qualifying match since 1972 when they meet Belgium in a European Championship group five tie Wednesday.

Philipp said he may be without five key players for the game which Belgium must win to keep their qualification hopes alive.

"This is a catastrophe. I have only 13 regular internationals. I simply cannot afford to lose five of my best players," said Philipp.

The Luxembourg coach will be without leading striker Roby Langers, one of only three professionals in the team, trusted goalkeeper John van Rijswijk and midfielder Patrick Morocutti. All are injured.

Two other players are doubtful starters.

Connors attempts comeback

CHICAGO (AP) — Jimmy Connors has an unlikely perspective on what some might call an unenviable position — trying to make it on the pro circuit at age 38 after a wrist injury, surgery and two unsuccessful comebacks.

"What a beautiful situation to be in," said Connors, the no. 1 player in the world for 159 weeks in 1974-77, but now a decided underdog with a ranking of 987th.

"I can swing from the hip the way everyone has always played me, with nothing to lose. I've never been in this position before," Connors said.

Connors, from Bellville, Illinois, returns to the court this week at the Volvo Tennis Tournament in Chicago, beginning his 20th consecutive season on the pro tour.

He hasn't played since surgery on his left wrist last October. The operation followed an injury in a first-round match in Milan, Italy, last February, six months of rest and two unsuccessful returns.

Connors and John McEnroe are the two biggest names in the 32-man draw at the Volvo tournament, being played at the University of Illinois-Chicago through Sunday.

McEnroe won the tournament in 1985. Other recent champions include Michael Chang, Ivan Lendl, Tim Mayotte and Boris Becker.

Connors has done commentary on a limited basis for the National Broadcasting Co. and has a slew of business interests, but has still remained active in the game.

"I love everything to do with tennis," he recently told the Chicago Tribune. "Not hanging around the locker room but actually playing tennis, the exercise, being able to make a living at it. I just love the game. Playing in public up the creek, it's all gray."

He reached the semifinals of the U.S. Open in 1987 and the quarterfinals in 1988 and 1989. He won a couple of singles titles in 1989. His injury last year put him on the sidelines.

After the surgery on Oct. 6, he was in a full-arm cast for 6½ weeks and a half-cast for another 2½ weeks. Since then, he has been working out with former pros John Lloyd and Marty Riessen.

"I've practiced to the point where I've had enough practice already and it's time to go out and play matches, cut loose and see what happens," he said.

"I'm very nervous about playing because I've been gone for so long."

"Now I feel like let's just get to it, serve 'em up and see if I can get my game to a certain level. And if I can't, well, 'good luck and have a good life.'"

Connors has spent much of the past year teaching his son, Brett, 11, to play guitar and his daughter, Aubree, 6, to read.

"Out of every bad comes good, and long after tennis is gone, my family will still be there," he said.

2 Koreas agree on united soccer team

SEOUL (R) — South Korea and North Korea signed an agreement Tuesday on details of an unprecedented unified team to represent their divided peninsula at a World Youth Soccer Tournament in June.

The agreement, signed at the border village of Panmunjom, ended speculation here that the North, which last week cancelled a scheduled meeting between premiers of the two sides, might also try to pull out of an initial sports accord.

"Both sides reached a compromise though they had wrangled over such issues as selection matches, training schedules and the number of reporters to accompany players," a spokesman for Seoul's Sports Ministry said.

"We are now at the doorstep of realizing the participation of a joint Korean team in the sixth World Youth Soccer Tournament."

The two sides drafted a joint application to be sent to FIFA, the governing body of world soccer.

A FIFA spokesman in Zurich said Monday the two Koreas must submit official applications by Thursday if they wanted to enter the unified team in the soccer tournament in Portugal in June.

Huber tested in 1st round

of California tournament

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Ninth seeded Anke Huber of Germany struggled past qualifier Rene Simpson-Alter of Canada 6-3 6-6 1-1 in the first round of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Palm Springs Women's Tennis Tournament Monday.

Top-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, who will replace Steffi Graf of Germany as the number one player in the world if she wins here and beats second-seeded Martina Navratilova in the finals, received a first round bye, as did all of the top eight seeds.

Seles will face Britain's Monique Javer in the second round, and Navratilova will play South African Amanda Coetzer.

Fourteenth-seeded Marianne Werdel of the United States was the only seeded player to fall on

the first day. She was upset by American Stacey Martin 7-5 6-4 in a slugfest.

Tenth-seeded Rosalyn Fairbank-Nideffer of the United States coasted past Nathalie Herremann of France 6-2 6-2, and Clare Wood of Britain eliminated Mary Pierce of France 7-6 (7-4) 6-4 in other first-round matches.

Huber, ranked 25th in the world, has been compared to countrywoman Steffi Graf because of her hard-hitting style.

But against Simpson-Alter she changed her strategy in the third set and played more cleverly.

"I don't like the comparisons because I can't hit hard all the time like Steffi," said Huber. "I need to play a different game sometimes, but I do prefer to hit hard. It's more fun."

Borg seeks to enter Monte Carlo Tennis Tournament

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — Bjorn Borg, the five-time Wimbledon champion, is looking to make a return to competition at the Monte Carlo Tennis Tournament, organizers said Monday.

The Grand Prix tournament is the first major clay court tournament of the season. Borg, who turns 35 in June, reportedly wants to enter directly into the main draw although he has not played competitively in eight years.

The great Swedish champion just informed the organizers that he is planning to take part in the Monte Carlo tournament which will take place on April 20 to 29, 1991," said a statement from the Monte Carlo Country Club, where the tennis tourney is held.

The statement also said that Borg would come to train a week before the tournament to get in final shape for his return to competition.

Last week, Bernard Noat, the head of the \$1-million event, said he would give Borg a wild card if he asked for it. Noat was not available for comment Monday.

Borg won the Wimbledon Grand Slam tournament five consecutive years between 1976 and 1980. He also won the French Open, which is played on clay, six times.

Borg, who has been training extensively over the last few months, won his last Grand Slam title at the 1981 French Open. He scored his last tournament victory later that year.

The former Swedish ace played in tournaments in 1982 and 1983, but has played just a few exhibitions since.

Borg and Jimmy Connors were set to play an exhibition in London on April 10, according to promoters. But Borg's agent has denied that the match would be held.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1991

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You won't have much of an opportunity today to prepare for the weeks and months ahead when you will need to be more in tune with what others expect in order to gain alliances to your favor.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You just don't see how to get started on your cherished longings in the morning but then suddenly a break comes that opens up new outlets.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You still feel this morning as though you just cannot get yourself prepared for those interesting new secret aims but then the evening brings real progress.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is the moment to listen to what a longtime but impressive friend has to say early and don't deny, then tonight conditions work out.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are certainly tied down to a career matter you do not much like in the morning but then the evening finds an important person appreciative of your worth.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can get the information or the person you need this morning to round out a plan action, then put it in effect quickly in the evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have a long standing responsibility that you had better meet head on this morning, then the evening can find you closed

wisely with an associate who can help.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the time for you to make progress in better understanding what others expect of you and in cementing partnerships more harmoniously.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A project can easily be taken off your mind but early tackling it after which you can survey your surroundings and see what needs to be done.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have it in your power now to get rid of what is standing in the way of your desires, then full speed ahead in the evening to the recreations you enjoy.

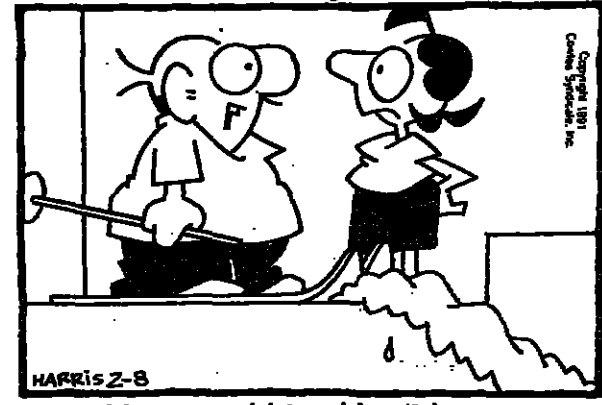
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you think, should be the best way to please your family requires much thought in the morning and then put this plan in motion.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are a number of private interests requiring your personal attention in the morning but later finds usual associates willing to go along with your ambitions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have something of a financial nature taken out of your life or to distress you early then later you are able to get businessmen to give you good advice.

THE BETTER HALF.

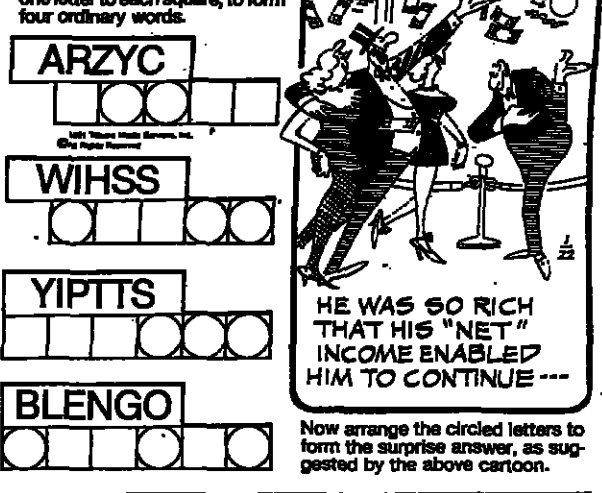
By Harris



"It's too cold to ski outdoors, so I covered the stairs with ice cream."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



ANSWER: HIS "O O O O O O O O O O" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRASS MOLLY AERATE RARITY
Answer: The secret of establishing a successful relationship is in making a good first impression — LAST

Schillaci goes 100 days without scoring

ROME (R) — Salvatore Schillaci has gone 100 days without scoring and all season looking for the goal form that made him Italy's World Cup soccer hero eight months ago.

"Toto," as he is known to his fans, thinks he may be the victim of a spell.

"I'd better make a pilgrimage to (the French Roman Catholic shrine at) Lourdes for a blessing," the Sicilian-born striker said after yet another dry game. Juventus' 0-0 draw at home to Lecce Sunday.

"On a pitiful pitch we again hit posts and crossbar. No, it's not normal."

Schillaci, who thrilled viewers around the world with six goals and was top scorer in the World Cup last summer, has scored only four times in the league this season.

He thought he had seen the light at the end of the tunnel when he struck a hat-trick for Juventus in the 5-0 win over Roma on November 18.

But on Tuesday 100 days will have gone by and he has not found the net again.

The dark 26-year-old, an unknown playing second division football for Sicilian team Messina a year before the 1990 World

Cup, captivated worldwide audiences with his expressive, puppy dog eyes — said when fouled, sparking as he turned to meet the embraces of his team mates after scoring — as well as his goals.

But as the league goals failed to come, an increasingly irritable Schillaci added an aggressive streak to his image — on and off the field.

In true Sicilian Mafia style, he threatened to have Bologna's Fabio Poli shot after the two had clashed on the pitch last November. Schillaci was suspended for one match.

He was suspended again last month after being sent off for elbowing an opponent in the face.

Schillaci could point to the top scorers in the previous three World Cups — all like himself with six goals — Argentina's Mario Kempes in 1978, Italy's Paolo Rossi in 1982 and England's Gary Lineker in 1986.

They all took time to rediscover their goalscoring touch in the league the next season.

Asked at a recent national team practice whether he was still in the Italy side only because of his World Cup exploits, Schillaci, visibly annoyed, retorted: "I don't think anyone is here

other than on merit... even if I were to be dropped I would still have for the rest of my life the wonderful memories of the 1990 World Cup, right?"

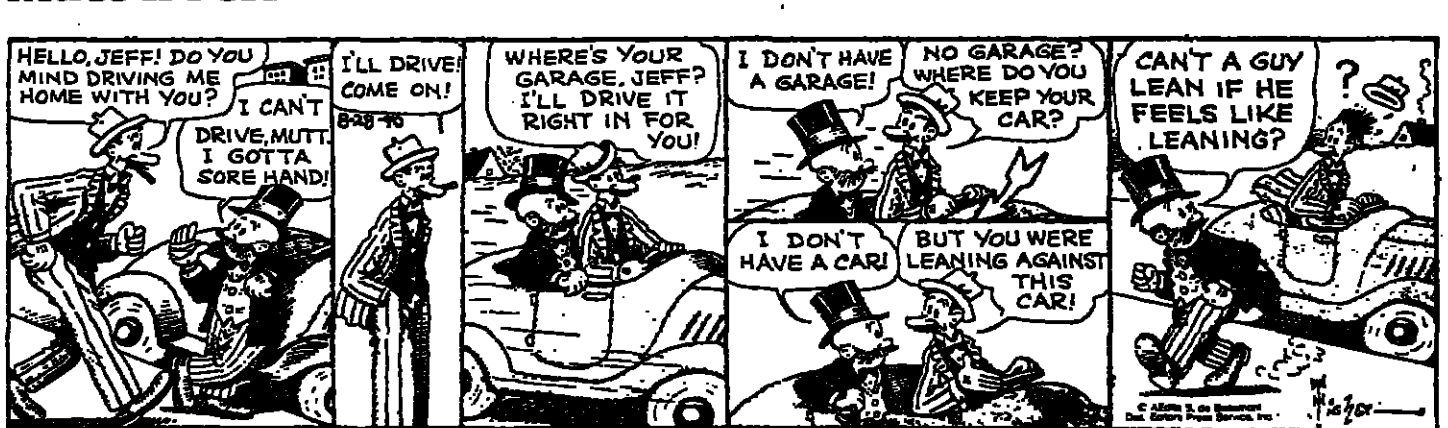
Former Italy striker Gigi Riva, a star of the 1970 World Cup and now national team boss Azezio Vicini's right hand man, said there was no Schillaci crisis.

"The quality of the player is simply not up for discussion. He's playing very well, he's just not always lucky," Riva said. "If he remains cool and calm the goals will come again."

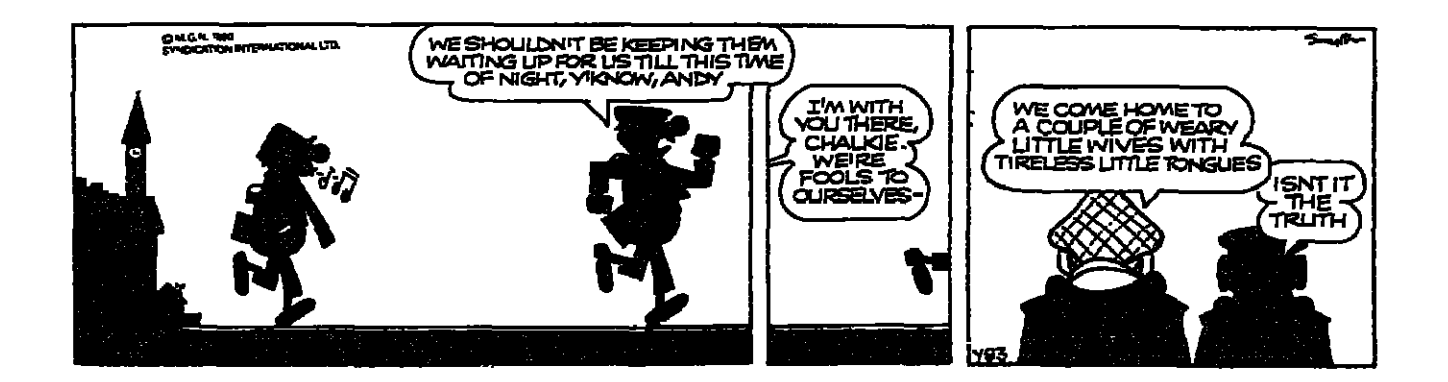
In October, Juventus showed faith in Schillaci by giving him a contract until 1993 worth \$2.7 million, nearly doubling his salary.

He has not been dropped by Juventus or Italy despite the goal drought. But his club's league fortunes and the national team's 1992 European Championship hopes would no doubt improve if "Toto" started hitting the back of the net regularly again.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A6 ♠Q ♠J98643 ♠AJ93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A72 ♠KJ ♠AKQ762 ♠Q7
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

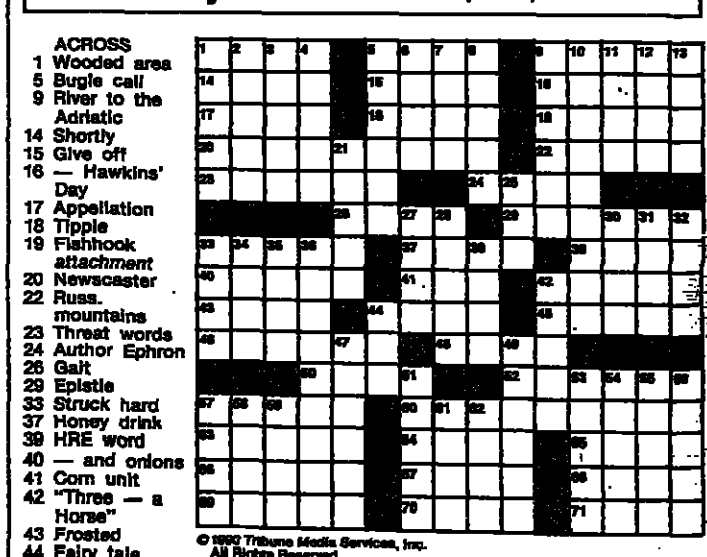
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQJ105 ♠74 ♠Q8 ♠AK6
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K105 ♠AK865 ♠AQ962 ♠Void
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK32 ♠A10 ♠8 ♠AKQ853
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠76 ♠4 ♠10652 ♠Q6432
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew



Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

1. Wooded area	5. Leash	44. Crude metal	55. Light beer
6. River to the Adriatic	6. Cupid	47. City of Mesopotamia	56. Trophy
14. Shortly	7. Microchaum	49. Deep-seated	57. Food fish
15. Give off	8. Strict	51. Cartography collection	58. Bunny
16. Hawkins' Day	9. Convince	53. Petty officer	59. Sound cover
17. Appellation	10. Newscaster	54. Czar's edict	62. "The Love"
18. Tittle	11. Brainchild		
19. Fishhook attachment	12. 4 ounces		
20. Newscaster	13. Slippery ones		
22. Ruse, mountains	21. Chemical compound		
23. Threat words	25. Advanced in		
24. Author Ephron	27. Portent		
25. Galt	28. Instruct		
29. Epistle	30. down (moderate)		
33. Struck hard	31. HC college baseball		
37. Money drink	32. Sandberg		
38. HRS word	33. Slender		
40. — and onlone	34. Mineral silicate		
41. Corn unit	35. More than		
42. "Three — a horse"	36. Newscaster		
43. Flood	38. Region		
44. Fairy tale opener	42. Track entrant		

Economists expect short U.S. recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — A substantial majority of the nation's top economic forecasters say the recession will be brief and less severe than the post-World War II average for downturns, a survey released Tuesday showed.

Sixty-one per cent of forecasters polled look for the recession to be shorter than the post-1945 average of 11 months, while 36 per cent think it will be about average in length, the National Association of Business Economists (NABE) said.

"As for the recession depth, 78 per cent expect to see less than the postwar average 2.5 per cent decline in GNP (gross national product), while 15 per cent expect about an average decline," the association said.

The survey, conducted during the first two weeks of February, also showed just over half of the 51 economists believe the recession will end in the second quarter. Two-thirds had predicted last November that it would end in the first three months of this year.

In the new survey, 22 per cent put the low point in the current quarter, while 18 per cent said the downturn will bottom out in the third quarter of 1991.

The GNP fell at an annual rate of 2.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1990, and the median expectations of the NABE economists are for a 1.6 per cent decline in the current quarter and a 0.3 per cent decline in the next.

A recession generally is defined as at least two consecutive declines in the GNP, the nation's total output of goods and services.

But while the forecasters extended the length of the recession, they did not significantly alter their projection of the economy's initial recovery.

The recovery will continue through 1992, with the economy growing 2.5 per cent on a year-over-year basis, up from a decline of 0.2 per cent this year, the survey indicated.

Singapore expects 3-6% growth

SINGAPORE (AP) — Uncertain about the impact of the Gulf war and the U.S. recession, booming Singapore expects its economy to expand by three to six per cent this year after 8.3 per cent growth in 1990.

"We are being realistic... at this moment, nobody can give a clear picture of what is happening in the Gulf," said Mah Bow Tan, the minister of state for trade and industry.

Asked by reporters if the forecast was overly modest, Mah said, "This range is a very comfortable one for us."

The three to six per cent projection was tentatively set in November.

"Since then the news has actually not been that bad," Mah said. He called three per cent the worst case scenario. "It would not be prudent at this time to revise the forecast."

Mah's remarks were made at a news conference on the release of the government's economic survey for 1990. The 8.3 per cent

growth compared to 9.2 per cent in 1989.

The economy has expanded since 1986, with an average 9.9 per cent growth rate since 1987. The last recession was in 1985.

In looking ahead, the survey said, "the major stock markets are up. The recession in the United States is expected to be short and mild. Germany and Japan are expected to register positive growth in 1991."

Buoyant economies in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia would help sustain regional growth, the survey said.

Without elaborating, Mah said last weekend's coup in Thailand would have no economic impact on Singapore or the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

ASEAN comprises Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei.

The 1990 inflation rate of 3.4 per cent took higher oil prices into account, the survey said. The closure of refineries in Iraq and

Kuwait as a result of the war increased demand for petroleum products from Singapore.

Unemployment hit a record low 1.7 per cent last June, corresponding to 22,700 jobs. The tight labour market impelled wage increases that exceeded productivity growth, the survey said.

"Business costs have been picking up recently and concern has been expressed that we may be losing our competitive edge," it said.

The United States, the European Community, Malaysia and Japan took about 57 per cent of Singapore's exports last year. Exports to the United States alone amounted to 21.1 per cent but declined in 1990 for the first time in more than 10 years.

"The U.S. economy is likely to remain in recession for the first two quarters of 1991... the consensus view of economists is that the recession will be over by mid-1991," the survey.

U.S., U.K. unfreeze assets of 7 Kuwaiti banks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department announced Monday that starting March 18 seven Kuwaiti banks may draw on assets frozen by the United States to settle claims made prior to the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion.

Immediately after Iraq stormed into Kuwait, President George Bush froze all assets of both countries that were held in the United States to prevent Iraq from taking control.

Still excluded from the Treasury Department order were settlement of obligations denominated in Kuwaiti dinars and claims related to deposits held in either country.

The treasury also said no transfers may be made to the government of Iraq, persons in Iraq or Kuwait or entities operated from either country.

The banks are Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East, Burgan Bank, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, the Gulf Bank, the Industrial Bank of Kuwait, and Kuwait Real Estate Bank.

The U.S. action was taken at the request of the Central Bank of Kuwait which has guaranteed all valid obligations, although it said it believed the blocked banks will be able to satisfy their claims directly.

Similar action was taken Monday by the Bank of England, the treasury announcement said.

The order, by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, also permits the banks immediately to begin preparations for settling the claims, such as gathering information, arranging credit and liquidating or transferring blocked assets.

Bonn coalition agrees to raise income, oil taxes

BONN (R) — Germany's coalition government has agreed to raise fuel and income taxes to help finance German unification and aid to Eastern Europe, Finance Minister Theo Waigel said Tuesday.

After a meeting of almost six hours, Waigel told reporters the three parties in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition had agreed to impose a 7.5 per cent surcharge on income and corporate tax payments for one year from July 1.

The income tax surcharge alone should raise 18.75 billion marks (\$12.5 billion).

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU), its sister party the Christian Social Union (CSU) and the Free Democratic Party (FDP) also agreed to raise taxes on vehicle fuels from July 1.

The levy will rise by 25 pfennings (16.7 cents) per litre on leaded petrol, 23 pfennings (15.3 cents) on unleaded petrol and 10 pfennings (6.7 cents) on diesel fuel.

A tax on insurance premiums will also rise.

Total revenue from the tax increases should exceed 20 billion

marks (\$13.3 billion) from 1992, he said.

The rise will help Bonn fill a gap of at least 20 billion marks (\$13.3 billion) in its budget for 1991 and 30 billion (\$20 billion) a year in the following years.

Waigel said the tax increases were "economically relatively undamaging" and should impose no lasting burden on the economy.

FDP leader Otto Lamsdorff said Monday the proposed tax rises could slice one percentage point off German economic growth this year. Waigel said last week he expected former West Germany's economy to grow by 3.2 per cent in 1991, down from 4.6 per cent in 1990.

An increase in German taxes became inevitable last week as government ministers and Kohl's CDU admitted that Bonn had misjudged the cost of German unification last year.

Kohl pledged before the general election on Dec. 2 that German unification would not lead to higher taxes.

But the problems in former East Germany were underestimated. Apart from antiquated factories, most of the infrastruc-

ture must be rebuilt, from phone lines to power plants.

The collapse of the Soviet-led trading bloc Comecon and the switch to convertible currencies have added to the former country's woes. Unemployment is growing steadily and economists expect the region's economy to shrink by one-fifth in 1991.

On top of its commitments to the eastern part of united Germany, Bonn has pledged almost 16 billion marks (\$10.7 billion) to the allied Gulf war effort.

Leading politicians also expect Germany to pay four to five billion marks (\$2.7 to \$3.3 billion) more in aid to Eastern Europe.

With the budget deficit in 1991 forecast to rise 40 per cent to almost 70 billion marks (\$46.7 billion) from 1990, an increase in borrowing had been ruled out by Bonn.

The Bundesbank has already warned that runaway spending by regional states could boost the 1991 public sector deficit as high as 155 billion marks (\$103.3 billion), well over Waigel's target of 140 billion (\$93.3 billion).

British trade goes further into red, deepening recession

LONDON (R) — Britain's trade plunged deeper into deficit last month, setting the stage for a possible weakening of the pound and dimming prospects of any quick exit from recession.

The government's Central Statistical Office said Monday the deficit on the current account balance of payments widened in January to £1,228 million (\$2.45 billion) from December's £855 million (\$1.7 billion).

Some financial analysts worry that the pound might be undermined if the trade picture remains bad. A weaker currency would in turn make it harder for the government to cut high British interest rates, blamed for the business recession.

Markets had expected the trade gap to narrow to around £800 million (\$1.6 billion) in January, continuing an improvement begun last October.

Despite the upset, the treasury

(finance ministry) insisted that "the trend... is still clearly downward."

Officials say calculations in January were upset by volatile items, including the export of North Sea oil, which fell because of platform maintenance work, and the trade in so-called "erratics" — gems and aircraft.

A December surplus of £119 million (\$231.5 million) on erratics turned into a January deficit of £109 million (\$212 million). The surplus on oil fell to £16 million (\$31.1 million) from £213 million (\$414.3 million).

"The figures do not change the trend of a narrowing trade gap," said Ian Amstutz, senior economist at Chase Manhattan Bank.

But Peter Spencer at Shearson Lehman Brothers said imports were still pouring in.

"The market share of importers typically falls in a recession. But it hasn't fallen in this recession," he said.

"At this stage in the cycle, we should be seeing a much bigger improvement in the underlying figures," he noted.

The consumer boom of the late 1980s ignited British inflation — forcing up interest rates — and syphoned in imported goods which widened the trade gap.

Prime Minister John Major's government is under increasing pressure to cut interest rates from the current 13.5 per cent.

These are hurting industry and angering millions of voters with mortgage (home loan) repayments to make.

Major must call a general election no later than mid-1992.

Opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock said: "The government has been throttling the economy for more than two years and yet they have still got a massive deficit."

The U.S. action was taken at the request of the Central Bank of Kuwait which has guaranteed all valid obligations, although it said it believed the blocked banks will be able to satisfy their claims directly.

Similar action was taken Monday by the Bank of England, the treasury announcement said.

The order, by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, also permits the banks immediately to begin preparations for settling the claims, such as gathering information, arranging credit and liquidating or transferring blocked assets.

Turkish trade deficit soars to \$9.3 billion

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, hit by the Gulf crisis, more than doubled its 1990 trade deficit to \$9.34 billion from \$4.17 billion in 1989, official figures showed Monday.

The State Institute of Statistics (SIS) said the 124.2 per cent rise in the trade gap was the largest since 1974.

"The underlying problem is the world recession because of the Gulf crisis and Turkey is getting its share," said Memduh Hacıoglu, chairman of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry.

Turkey's trade balance has been worsened by higher oil prices coupled with the loss of export markets in Iraq and the Gulf since Baghdad invaded Kuwait last August. A surge in sales of foreign cars also swelled the import bill.

Government officials estimate Turkey's overall Gulf-related losses at nearly \$4.7 billion in 1990.

The SIS bulletin said exports covered only 58.1 per cent of imports in 1990, compared to 73.6 per cent in 1989.

Exports rose 11.4 per cent to \$12.96 billion from \$11.68 billion in 1989, while imports soared to \$22.3 billion from \$15.79 billion, a rise of 41.2 per cent.

"The problem of export financing is one cause of the widening trade gap," Hacıoglu told Reuters.

Turkish Eximbank should give more credits to finance exports and thus bridge the deficit.

Turkish Eximbank provided export credits worth nearly \$940 million to local companies in 1990. Bank officials would not comment on this year's lending programme.

Some industrialists, particularly in the textile sector, want Ankara to restrain cheap imports to protect local industry.

However, State Minister Isin Celebi pledged last month to continue to liberalise import policies to spur competition and stimulate productivity and efficiency in the domestic market.

The SIS said exports to Germany, Turkey's biggest trade partner, rose to \$3.06 billion and imports to \$3.5 billion in 1990, compared to \$2.18 billion and \$2.2 billion in 1989.

Exports to Iraq, Turkey's second biggest trade partner in 1989, were worth \$214 million before the invasion of Kuwait, down from \$445 million in the whole of 1989. Imports fell to \$1.04 billion, compared to \$1.65 billion in 1989.

Textiles and iron and steel products topped the export list last year. Machinery, crude oil, electronic goods, iron, steel and chemicals were the leading imported items.

Vehicle imports soared 470 per cent to more than \$650 million, the SIS figures showed.

Brady faces tough task selling bank reforms to Congress

WASHINGTON (R) — Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady goes to Congress this week to sell the administration's proposals to overhaul the U.S. banking system, and analysts say he will have a tough time convincing lawmakers to back the whole package.

The medicine the treasury is prescribing for the ailing banking industry would allow branches to be established nationwide instead of confining them to one state and would bolster the dwindling deposit insurance fund.

It also would break down barriers between banking and commerce and allow savings banks to enter new areas of business such as insurance and securities.

Industry analysts are optimistic lawmakers will move quickly on deposit insurance reform and nationwide banking.

But they don't see much enthusiasm for letting banks move into more types of business, or letting industrial companies own banks. Congressmen fear such reforms would cause more harm than good.

"Many members of Congress are concerned that that type of deregulation was a contributing factor to the collapse of the S and L (savings and loan) industry," said Karen Shaw, president of the Institute for Strategy Development, a bank consulting firm.

The treasury is proposing the most wide-ranging reforms in half a century, sweeping away depression-era laws that, it argues, now hamper banks at today's market.

Nationwide banking, for example, is expected to spur much-needed consolidation within the industry, which has been weakened by overcapacity.

"There's no question about the cost savings from nationwide banking," Richard Huber, vice chairman of Continental Bank Corp. "It would make the system healthier."

Brady is optimistic Congress will see the need to act. "I have faith that Congress, when it sees the problem, will deal with it... it's common sense stuff," he said.

There appears to be a consensus building in Congress that some deregulation may be needed. But many lawmakers, haunted by the S and L disaster, fear that giving banks more freedom could lead them even deeper into trouble and cause a rerun of the multibillion dollar taxpayer bailout of the savings industry.

Iran opens \$100 million credit line for Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Iran will open a \$100 million credit line to Romania's consumer goods imports from Tehran, a Romanian official said Monday.

"The line will be open to all companies and credit terms will be set through bilateral negotiations between Romanian exporters and Iranian exporters," the official in the trade and tourism ministry was quoted by the state news agency Rompres as saying.

The credit was part of a broad package agreed during a meeting last week between the two countries' joint economic and technical commission in Bucharest.

Other agreements already announced Iranian exports of five million tonnes of oil a year to Romania and cooperation in building an Iranian gas pipeline via Turkey to Europe.

Iran, which has the world's largest gas reserves after the Soviet Union, is currently negotiating on the gas pipeline plan with France and a five-country group consisting of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Comecon burial postponed

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — A summit to dissolve the Soviet-led eastern trading bloc Comecon, scheduled to be held in Budapest this week, has been postponed, officials said Monday.

Klara Fogarasi, a spokeswoman at the ministry for external commercial relations had "received word from Moscow that the meeting was postponed indefinitely."

But the Czechoslovak CTK news agency later quoted Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy as saying in Prague that the Soviets had proposed that Comecon meet instead in Moscow March 11-13, at ministerial level.

Dlouhy told reporters that he was inviting representatives of Comecon countries for weekend discussions on the Soviet proposal, CTK said.

With the advent of democracy and the introduction of market economies in East European countries, the organisation that regulated trade among the countries has lost its significance.

Much of Comecon's work involved settling accounts for trade between members, since none had a convertible currency. But since the beginning of this year, trade among the Comecon na-

tions has been conducted in hard currency.

The announcement of the postponement came as foreign ministers and defence ministers of the former Soviet Bloc met in Budapest to dissolve the Warsaw Pact military alliance that included many of the same countries.

In Moscow, Comecon spokesman Bronislav Sovs confirmed that the meeting was being delayed. He gave no details, and no reason was given for the postponement.

CTK reported that one of the reasons for the delay was "further proposals of the new Polish government." It did not elaborate.

In a separate dispatch, CTK said the Czechoslovak government had approved documents dissolving Comecon.

The Hungarian official had said earlier that there were differences among the members over a planned organisation to succeed Comecon.

Hungarian state radio reported that its correspondent in Moscow was told by an official at Comecon headquarters that "preparations have not been completed."

The meeting of the nine Com-

eon member countries had been scheduled for Feb. 27-28.

A diplomatic source in Budapest, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP Monday that "the holding of the meeting became uncertain several days ago."

The state news agency MTI reported that a postponement would allow members more time to prepare for the meeting.

The 13th meeting of the organisation's executive committee held in January in Moscow agreed that Comecon could not be reformed.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland feel there is no need for a new organisation while the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Romania, Cuba, Vietnam and Mongolia feel a new organisation is needed to coordinate the remnants of Comecon trade, MTI said.

At the January meeting, the nine members agreed to set up a market-oriented association to be called the Organisation for International Economic Cooperation.

Comecon was set up in Moscow in January 1919 to create a protected marketplace for the closed communist economies that emerged after World War II.

Manila gets \$3.3b financial aid

HONG KONG (AP) — An international conference organised by the World Bank has pledged \$3.3 billion in financial aid to the Philippines, the Philippine finance secretary said Tuesday.

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said he had expected less and was surprised by the generosity of the 22 donor countries and international financial institutions attending the two-day conference that ended Tuesday.

"Quite frankly I did not expect such a high level of pledges," he told a news conference. "I think we are finally getting our financial package very much in place."

"The Europeans came in very strong (and) the Japanese came in with an increase," he said.

The aid package is intended to help the Philippines generate employment, reduce poverty and repay its \$28 billion foreign debt.

Estanislao, who headed the Philippine delegation at the meeting, said he had initially expected pledges totaling \$2.5 billion to help strengthen the Philippine's economy. Other members of the delegation said they had expected the aid package, consisting of low-interest loans and grants, to total \$3 billion.

The Philippines received \$3 bil-

lion at a similar conference held in Tokyo in 1989.

"The European Community, despite our fears that they would look mainly to Eastern Europe and less toward Asia, decided to come in strong and this is very reassuring," Estanislao said.

Japan was the largest donor and the United States was another major contributor, and both the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank increased their commitments, he said.

However, he was not able to provide a breakdown of individual donations.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, February 26, 1991					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	667.0	671.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	501.8	504.8
Pound Sterling	1287.7	1295.4	Dutch guilder	390.0	392.3
Deutschemark	439.6	442.2	Swedish crown	118.3	119.0
Swiss franc	513.3	516.4	Italian lira (for 100)	58.8	59.2
French franc	129.3	130.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	212.9	214.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.9270/80	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1520/3	Canadian dollar	
	1.5190/97	Deutschemark	
	1.7070/80	Dutch guilders	
	1.3010/17	Swiss francs	
	31.22/27	Belgian francs	
	5.1570/20	French francs	
	1132/1133	Italian lire	
	133.10/20	Japanese yen	
	5.6420/70	Swedish crowns	
	5.9330/80	Norwegian crowns	
	5.8300/50	Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	
One ounce of gold	358.75/359.25		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Confusion over reports that Iraq had offered to withdraw from Kuwait kept the market in the doldrums until late buying pushed it higher. The All Ordinaries index posted its third straight gain, rising 1.0 point to 1,413.4.

TOKYO — The Nikkei index saw-sawed violently after Iraq's announcement it was withdrawing from Kuwait and closed down 179.8 points at 26,282.96. "An end to the war had already been discounted," a broker said.

HONG KONG — News that Saddam Hussein planned to address to the Iraqi people came late and had little impact. The Hang Seng index gained 11.98 points to 3,532.43.

SINGAPORE — Expectations of an early end to the Gulf war helped the Straits Times industrial index gain 15.52 points to 1,432.78.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 27.33 points to 1,205.20 on news that Iraq started withdrawing from Kuwait. "The market had been waiting to see an end to the fighting," said broker Sunil Kothari. "We see good prospects for Indian firms in the reconstruction."

FRANKFURT — Tax rises for the costs of the Gulf war and German unity sent the DAX index down 42.91 points to 1,558.25.

ZURICH — The all-share SPI index fell 14.4 points to 1,015.2. Traders said an end to the Gulf war was already discounted.

PARIS — Profit-taking and negative French jobs and trade data reversed the past week's climb. The CAC-40 index, which hit a six-month high Monday, fell 32.86 points to 1,712.31.

LONDON — With little reaction to war news the FTSE index was hit by profit-taking and a weak start on Wall Street and closed at 2,322.2, a drop of 13.3.

TODAY AT

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

Nadia Al Jundi
Farouq Al Fishawi
in
DEATH SQUAD

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Mel Gibson ★ Kurt Russell
Michelle Pfeiffer
in
TEQUILA SUNRISE

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **NIJOM** Tel: 675571

Kim Basinger
in
9½ WEEKS

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Silvester Stallone
in
TANGO AND CASH

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

PICASSO TRIGGER

Performances: 12:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

Thai king gives seal of approval to military coup

BANGKOK (R) — Military officers in full dress uniform raised champagne toasts Tuesday after a royal order from the king of Thailand legitimised their weekend coup against the civilian government.

Martial law would be lifted as soon as an interim government was installed, coup leader General Sunthorn Kongsompong told reporters after the ceremony.

A cabinet of civilians and military men would be formed in a week to 10 days, the armed forces supreme commander said.

A royal command from King Bhumibol Adulyadej approved Sunthorn as head of the military junta, which calls itself the National Peacekeeping Command.

His order was read at a ceremony in the army auditorium before ranks of officers in dress uniform. Afterwards they stood in line to shake Sunthorn's hand and to drink a champagne toast.

The deposed government of Prime Minister Chatchai Choonhavan had lost the faith of the people and had failed to maintain law and order, the royal command said.

The king asked his 55 million-

people to remain peaceful and instructed civil servants and government officials to follow orders from Sunthorn.

King Bhumibol is a revered figure and although he has no direct say in day-to-day affairs it would be impossible to form a government against his wishes.

The military overthrew Chatchai in a swift and bloodless coup Saturday, saying the government was corrupt and misusing its power.

Sunthorn declared martial law and said corrupt politicians would be hunted down and punished.

The coup, the 17th in Thailand's modern history, ended two-and-a-half years of full democracy in one of South East Asia's most rapidly prospering countries.

The U.S.-trained Sunthorn, elaborating on the junta's promise to hand over to a caretaker civilian government and eventually to return the country to elected leaders, said the new cabinet had not yet been formed.

There was no word on the identity of the interim premier or when he would be appointed. Elder statesman and constitutional expert Ukrit Mongkolkevin

was widely tipped as the most likely candidate.

"The new prime minister will take care of the routine running work and the military will step back to advise on major policy," Suchit Bumbongkarn, professor of politics at Chulalongkorn University, said.

The military received a nod of approval from the stockmarket and Thai newspapers Tuesday.

The Set Index, which plunged Monday, recovered to close 41.99 higher at 776.23, brokers at the Bangkok bourse said.

The country's biggest selling newspaper, Thai Rath, summed up the general mood of editorials, saying: "All praise the military and support it in getting rid of vice."

Some foreign governments have decried the military overthrow of an elected government.

Asked if he was upset that the United States had cut off aid to protest against the coup, Sunthorn said: "I am, but it is our own internal problem. We have to solve it in our own way."

Chatchai is still being detained by the military. Leaders of the junta said he could be released soon.

Gorbachev begins first domestic trip

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev put aside his peacemaking efforts in the Gulf war Tuesday and began his first domestic trip in a half-year, a visit to Soviet Byelorussia that will include a stopover in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, TASS reported.

Gorbachev began his trip to Byelorussia Tuesday by meeting officers at a tractor factory in Minsk, the republic's capital. He will also meet lawmakers, scientists and intellectuals in Minsk and travel to the Chernobyl-contaminated Gomel and Mogilev regions, TASS said.

About one-fifth of Byelorussia — an area where more than 2 million people live — was contaminated by radiation that spewed out of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the nearby Ukraine as a result of the April 26, 1986, accident.

Politicians and residents allege bureaucratic bungling, medical

incompetence, corruption, neglect and waste in the cleanup from the Chernobyl disaster. Official accounts say the accident cost 31 lives but others say the death toll was more than 500.

Thousands of people are still living on contaminated land, and food produced on radioactive land continues to be eaten.

Gorbachev's visit is apparently an attempt to show residents the government still cares about their problems and is trying to help.

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Soviet president proposes new cabinet to parliament

MOSCOW (AP) — After a delay of more than two months, President Mikhail Gorbachev on Tuesday nominated 23 people to a cabinet, and 17 of them were holdovers from his previous government, TASS reported.

The delay was a reflection of the paralysis that has gripped the Soviet government as it battles a deepening political and economic crisis.

Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov said last week the cabinet will consist of 55 people, a further indication that the national leadership does not intend to free itself of the massive bureaucracy that has proved to be a hindrance to reform.

The Congress of People's Deputies, or parliament, in December endorsed Gorbachev's plans for a new cabinet of ministers. At the time, Gorbachev's aides were telling reporters that the 89-member Council of Ministers would be replaced by a cabinet of about 15 people.

Instead, it appears the new cabinet will consist of the 23 people already proposed by Gorbachev, the heads of the 15 republics, and 15 others whose nominations have yet to be announced.

Two of the more prominent cabinet ministers, Interior Minister Boris Pugo and Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, already have been approved by lawmakers.

TASS reported that among those staying in their posts are

Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, a target of reformers, and KGB head Vladimir Kryuchkov, who nonetheless must be reconfirmed by the legislature.

Nominated to the key post of finance minister was Vladimir Orlov, who served as deputy to Pavlov when he held the post last year.

The nominations will be considered in legislative committees and debated by the full legislature Thursday.

In a separate development, the leader of Soviet Georgia offered Monday to begin negotiations in the strife-torn area of South Ossetia if local militants disarm, TASS reported.

It was not immediately clear whether the separatists would take up the offer made by Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, because they have been involved in numerous clashes with his Georgian Interior Ministry troops. The national government finally sent its own Interior Ministry troops to act as buffer between the two groups.

Gamsakhurdia's offer to negotiate came several days after the national parliament threatened to impose its own state of emergency in the area — which Gamsakhurdia says would only escalate tensions. The national parliament told the Georgians they must act to end violence in the area by Saturday, but no action had been taken by Monday.

Cholera death toll rises over 150 in Peru

LIMA (AP) — Press reports Monday said over a dozen people had died of cholera over the weekend in Peru, forcing the death toll from an epidemic above 150.

Health Minister Carlos Vidal Sunday called for more foreign medicine donations, saying government-allocated funds of \$4 million to combat the epidemic had run out.

He said he would not resign over claims he had precipitated an economic crisis by exaggerating the effects of the epidemic. Several countries, including France and Italy, have restricted imports of Peruvian food products.

"I'm not an alarmist," he said. "The epidemic exists. I couldn't hide the fact. I had to tell truth."

Vidal blamed previous governments over the past 30 years for not having invested in Peru's sanitary services and called for higher wages for state doctors and nurses.

Cholera is often spread through water contaminated with feces.

Some 4 million of Lima's population of 7 million live in shantytowns often lacking water, sewage and health services.

Domestic and international demand for Peruvian fish products fell heavily in February after the Health Ministry warned the sea could be contaminated due to the dumping of untreated sewage into the ocean.

However, ministry officials and epidemiologists have since said the population can eat seafood if well-cooked and that fish exports are uncontaminated as they are processed at high temperatures.

On Sunday, President Alberto Fujimori visited fishermen in the southern port of Pisco, where he ate seafood dishes and called on Peruvians to eat fish as the best way to promote seafood exports.

"I have never stopped eating fish together with my family," Fujimori said. "Because the fish we eat comes from far out to sea, where there is no contamination."

Peru is the world's leading fishmeal producer and a major exporter of fish oil, and canned and frozen seafood. Peru's fish products brought in about \$500 million in export revenue last year.

Health Ministry officials Monday continued preparations for a Wednesday conference of health ministers from South American nations — Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Economic advisors will also attend to propose ways of softening the economic damage caused by the epidemic.

U.S. and Colombia sign accords on drugs, trade

WASHINGTON (R) — Colombia and the United States have signed four agreements Monday, the first day of an official visit by Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, to boost trade and improve anti-drug cooperation.

They include an agreement to share judicial evidence to expedite the judging of drug lords in Colombia.

The pact follows a controversial decision by Gaviria's government to offer traffickers who turn themselves in immunity from extradition to the United States.

At an evening news conference, the visiting leader defended his widely criticised olive branch to drug lords who produce 80 per cent of the cocaine entering the U.S. market.

"We recognise some may be sceptical, some may have doubts. But it is in the interest of the two countries that our policy be successful," Gaviria said.

"We hope that the judicial system of Colombia in cooperation with the U.S. judiciary can guarantee harsh sentences," he added.

The U.S. press has expressed doubts about the prison terms drug lords may get in Colombia.

But Gaviria's aides say opposition to the drug policy stems from a lack of understanding.

They trust the affable 43-year-old economist can correct the problem with a "frank and direct dialogue."

White House officials say in private that ending extradition was a mistake. Publicly, though, they say they are ready to accept a decision by a sovereign and friendly nation.

The apparent U.S. readiness to accept a strategy it fears may not stop the cocaine flow from Colombia seemed to be reflected in the red-carpet reception laid out for Gaviria.

A two-hour meeting with President George Bush is scheduled for him Tuesday at a time when Bush is preoccupied by the Gulf war.

Meanwhile two soldiers and 10 left-wing guerrillas were killed in clashes in central Colombia as army and rebel negotiators prepared to hold peace talks, the Colombian Defence Ministry said Monday.

A ministry statement said the two soldiers died while engaging members of Colombia's largest guerrilla group.

At least 200 die in New Guinea landslide

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — A massive mudslide in the Papua New Guinea highlands Tuesday killed at least 200 people and buried an unknown number of others, the country's prime minister said.

The mudslide, caused by torrential rains in recent weeks, wiped out homes, villages and roads in the rugged, mountainous area about 300 kilometres north-west of the capital, Port Moresby.

Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said there are fears that the death toll could rise when searchers and military officials reach the area at daybreak Wednesday to begin relief operations.

"It is too early yet to establish the final toll," Namaliu said Tuesday.

He called the landslide one of the country's worst natural disasters ever.

Australia, which granted Papua New Guinea its independence in 1975 after maintaining the country as a protectorate, is standing by to offer assistance if asked, Defence Department officials said in Canberra.

The Cape York peninsula in Queensland state on Australia's northeast tip is separated from Papua New Guinea by the Torres Strait.

Namaliu said the landslide in the northeastern corner of Chimbu province had wiped out several villages and affected more than 5,000 people.

Four military helicopters left Port Moresby late Tuesday for the region but were not able to get close to the site of the mudslide due to darkness. The town of Kundiwa, only 30 kilometres from the affected area, is two hours away by vehicle, officials said.

Namaliu said he was horrified at initial reports reaching the National Disaster and Emergency Services Centre Tuesday afternoon. Reports of the disaster were slow to reach the capital.

Papua New Guinea, to the north of Australia, is a former Australian protectorate that achieved independence in 1975. The country has a mainly Melanesian population of 3.5 million and shares its border on the main island of New Guinea with Indonesia's Irian Jaya province.

The country has been beset by internal strife with rebels in control of the copper-rich island of Bougainville, 400 kilometres west of Port Moresby.

Militant landowners have waged a secessionist war that resulted in the closure of one of the world's biggest open-cut copper mines and the national government enforcing a blockade of supplies to the stricken island.

Bangladesh election campaign ends

DHAKA (AP) — The election campaign for the first democratic transition of power in this coup-prone nation has ended with a festive air.

The country's top politicians, Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, now face each other for their own showdown in Wednesday's parliamentary elections less than three months after they teamed up to force former army Gen. Hussain Muhammad Ershad to resign as president.

Hasina, daughter of an assassinated president, and Zia, widow of another assassinated president, conducted their final Dhaka election rallies a kilometre apart at sundown Monday.

With balloons, banners, paeanes to democracy and attacks on each other, the two long-time rivals made the last public pitches for their parties.

Hasina's Awami League and Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party are competing with 68 smaller parties for the 300-seat parliament that will show whether this impoverished nation can change power by ballots instead of bullets.

The 2,783 candidates include Ershad, who is under house arrest and facing trial on charges of amassing illegally acquired wealth and illegal possession of firearms.

At least 15 people have been killed in party clashes during the 35 days of campaigning, which by law ended at midnight Monday. The toll so far is low for Bangladesh, where election death tolls usually exceed 100.

Hasina, Zia and Ershad are not facing each other in their individual election districts. All three are expected to win their personal races, and most analysts believe Hasina's Awami League will edge out Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

As long as Ershad is not convicted, he can seek and hold a seat in parliament, although he would have to be escorted under armed guard to the chamber. If convicted, he automatically forfeits his seat.

Overall, his Jatiya Party is expected to finish far back in the field — behind Hasina's and Zia's parties and an assortment of Muslim and leftist groups.

Zia, a charismatic campaigner who evokes the sort of mass awe associated with movie stars, out-classed Hasina at the last campaign rallies.

A crowd estimated at 200,000 by local journalists jammed the eight-lane boulevard in front of parliament to await the arrival of the 46-year-old widow of President Ziaur Rahman, who was killed in a military coup in 1981.

Zia needed only to walk slowly across the wobbling stage and wave to bring the crowd surging forward.

"We will not allow you to die from starvation," she promised, invoking memories of the 1974 famine when 30,000 people died when Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was president.

With a gesture at a giant painting of a sheaf of rice, her party's campaign symbol, Zia intoned: "We promise you will always have rice."

Hasina, meanwhile, was addressing a crowd estimated at 100,000 in an empty lot surrounded by deep ditches and a construction site that prevented the sort of spillover generated by her rival.

"Give me your vote, I'll give you democracy," the bespectacled 43-year-old Hasina said, jabbing the air with her forefinger.

Hasina said: "We don't want the Zia-Ershad system. We want a parliamentary system. We want democracy."

Zia and Ershad were both army generals when they seized power by coup — Zia in 1975 and Ershad in 1982. Both subsequently won elections as president.

Zia's generally was considered fair, but Ershad's was blatantly rigged, according to journalists and foreign diplomats who monitored the voting.

The party that wins parliament will produce Bangladesh's new prime minister. The presidency, which under the current constitution yields top executive power, will remain temporarily in the hands of a caretaker, Supreme Court Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad.

If Hasina wins a two-thirds majority in parliament or puts together a coalition with other parties, she has vowed to amend the constitution to transfer top power from the president to the prime minister — presumably Hasina herself.

Otherwise, the constitution requires that a new president be elected by October.

Bangladesh came into being in 1971 when it broke away from Pakistan, causing a bloody civil war.



Sheikh Hasina



Khaleda Zia

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Pro-ANC tribal chief shot dead

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — A South African tribal chief with close links to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) was shot dead in an overnight attack by unknown gunmen, police said Tuesday.

Chief Mhlambuzima Maphumulo, president of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contraleasa), was killed as he was parking his car outside his home in the Natal province capital of Pietermaritzburg, a spokesman said.

The chief, whose pro-ANC stance made him a bitter political enemy of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, was shot in the back of the head and the shoulder when the gunmen unleashed a hail of bullets at his car, the spokesman said.

Police were investigating but no arrests have been made.

Maphumulo's assassination was the latest blow to a fragile peace pact forged last month between Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi to stop the township civil war between the two anti-apartheid factions.

More than 3,000 people have been killed in five years of spear, gun and axe battles for political supremacy between the two groups. Isolated incidents of violence have been reported since the accord but the townships have generally been quiet.

In 1989, Maphumulo was elected president of Contraleasa, a movement that opposes "the apartheid-created homeland system of giving black tribal areas self-government."

Buthelezi, who is political chief of the KwaZulu homeland, said at the time of Maphumulo's election that Contraleasa was "a spear thrust into the heart of Zulu unity."

Meanwhile, President F.W. de Klerk and Mandela led delegations in an election summit Monday that agreed fundamental change was needed in educating blacks.

The meeting established a working group of government and education officials to study short-term problems such as poor facilities for black students and the longer-term question of creating a single education system for students of all races, participants told news conference.

Members of both delegations, however, said substantive change would take time.

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Seoul orders crackdown on demonstrations

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Prime Minister Roh Tae-woo ordered a crackdown on anti-government protests Tuesday, citing a rash of violent demonstrations over a major housing scandal and the Gulf war.

Roh's order came during a meeting of cabinet ministers who deal with security affairs, the prime minister's office said. Roh said violent demonstrators who attack police stations should be treated as terrorists, according to news reports.

The national police chief said last week that activists caught attacking police will face tougher penalties because of incidents that caused about 200 police injuries last year.

A fresh wave of anti-government protests, with demonstrators hurling firebombs and rocks at riot police, has erupted to dramatise demands

that president Roh Tae-woo resign over a major bribery scandal.

Radical students, dissidents and opposition politicians say the president's office has tried to cover up its part in the scandal, which has uncovered earlier this month.

Nine people, including a presidential aide, were arrested and charged with accepting \$1.4 million in bribes to help get construction permits for Hanbo Construction Co. in a restricted area outside Seoul. Roh fired two cabinet members and has vowed to run a clean government.

Students, dissident groups and the splinter Democratic Party have pledged to support massive nationwide rallies March 16 to protest the scandal.

The scandal is the largest since Roh took office in February 1988 and comes as South Korea faces local elections later this year.

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Chamorro celebrates first election anniversary

MANAGUA (AP) — Amid increasing rifts in newly-democratised Nicaragua, about 8,000 supporters of President Violeta Chamorro gathered in a stadium to celebrate the first anniversary of her election.

That election ended 10 years of leftist Sandinista rule.

But many officials didn't attend the ceremony, indicating their displeasure with her regime, including what they consider excessive cooperation with the Sandinistas and slowness in revamping the beleaguered economy.

Vice President Virgilio Godoy and at least seven of the 14 parties that backed her candidacy were absent.

Chamorro told the crowd the ceremony did not represent "a winner's celebration" but "the choice by the people of a system of government and life that makes brotherhood, peace and dialogue possible."

Nicaraguans, drained by a devastated economy and nine years of civil war which killed 55,000, overwhelmingly elected Chamorro over Sandinista President Daniel Ortega on Feb. 25, 1990.

After taking office April 25, she ended the U.S.-backed contra rebel war against the Sandinistas, stopped the military draft and cut the size of the army in half.

Press and political freedoms have been expanded, and there are no longer political prisoners.



Violeta Chamorro

But she has not managed to heal the economy.

The inflation that she promised to freeze in her first 100 days of government rose 13,000 per cent 1990.

Unemployment is estimated at more than 50 per cent, including more than 20,000 rebels and 50,000 Sandinista soldiers thrown out of work by the end of the war. Thousands demand land and aid from the government, and have taken over private or state-owned land in sometimes bloody confrontations.

Health services have been virtually halted for a month by 23,000 striking workers demanding wage increases. More than

30,000 teachers, who start the new school year in March, also want raises.

Chamorro's government maintains it can't meet the demands without printing new money, which would further swell inflation.

Thousands of jobless have migrated from the countryside to the capital in search of work, putting up shacks on vacant land and resorting to crime to survive.

"The large majority is worried because they have no way to satisfy their hunger and search in the garbage dumps for a crust of bread to eat while others only worry about expanding their businesses and profits to increase their wealth," Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo said recently.

Chamorro's centrist government is sandwiched between Sandinista pressure to preserve the land tenure reforms they established and private sector insistence that land and businesses be returned more quickly to former owners.

Promised U.S. aid of \$500 million and assistance from other countries have arrived only in dribbles.

Godoy and some other leaders of the United National Opposition (UNO), the coalition that backed Chamorro, accuse her of allowing the Sandinistas to govern with her and of staunchly

defending Gen. Humberto Ortega, the former president's brother, as armed forces chief.

Chamorro says keeping him on guarantees the social stability needed to attract foreign aid and investment.

Sandinista-organised strikes nearly paralysed the country in May and July. In November, the demobilised contras and right-wing mayors blocked roads and took over buildings, demanding the general be fired.

Chamorro temporarily quelled them by sending the army to clear the blockades and closing 18 military bases in the area.

At Monday's celebration, Mrs. Chamorro said "unfortunately we are still plagued by a black past that is tied to the sinister practices of crime and violence."

Referring to the Feb. 16 killing in Managua of former contra military chief Enrique Bermudez, she called for justice in the case and said reconciliation and democracy had been strained by the crime.

"If there is a heart in Nicaragua that reacts with immense and rebellious bitterness to this political crime, it is mine," she said.

Chamorro's husband, newspaper publisher Joaquin Chamorro, was killed in 1978. His death spurred support for the revolution that toppled Anastasio Somoza and brought the Sandinistas to power in July 1979.

COLUMN

Hepatitis C drug approved

WASHINGTON (AP) — The food and drug administration (FDA) has approved the first effective treatment for non-A, non-B hepatitis, a liver disease that infects about 150,000 Americans every year. The treatment is injections of Recombinant Interferon Alfa, which is already approved for treating several other diseases, including hairy cell leukemia, AIDS-related Kaposi's Sarcoma and genital warts.

Non-A, non-B hepatitis, also called hepatitis C, is usually caused by contact with infected blood and blood products. It is believed to be responsible for more than 90 per cent of transfusion-associated hepatitis. About half of the cases result in chronic hepatitis and about 20 per cent of those progress to cirrhosis, which can lead to liver failure and death in some patients. Other treatments for this kind of hepatitis have included Corticosteroids and Acyclovir, but none has proven to be effective, the FDA said. Side effects of the treatment include muscle, flu-like symptoms like muscle ache, headache and fever, which seemed to diminish as therapy progressed.

Violence against gays rises in Australia

CANBERRA (R) — Violence and discrimination against homosexuals in Australia is rising despite repeal of laws that criminalised homosexual acts, a report by the Australian Institute of Criminology said. Law reform in recent years has left Tasmania the only one of Australia's six states where homosexual acts between consenting males are illegal, the report said. It was clear that significant discrimination still existed despite law reform, the report said. "The upsurge in public violence and discrimination against homosexuals is a deplorable feature of public life," it said. The report, "Homosexuality: law reform in Australia," quoted as its main source an increasing number of press reports of attacks on homosexuals. "Stories of violence against lesbians and gay men appear frequently in the popular press," it said, citing reports that "packs" of youths make up to 30 attacks a week on homosexuals in Sydney, where 100,000 people parade in an annual gay mardi gras. The report offered no specific reason for the upsurge but suggested the incidence of AIDS among homosexuals and their emergence as a scapegoat among many people for social ills could be factors.

'Extinct' fish found alive in Mexico

NEW YORK (AP) — A two-inch (five-centimetre) fish that scientists had thought was extinct has been found alive and well in a scum-covered, foul-smelling cattle pond in Mexico. Ten specimens of the Opal Allotoca were scooped out of the pond with long-handled nets and brought to the United States, said Michael L. Smith, an ichthyologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He went neck-deep into the pond with two graduate students and a volunteer. Smith said nobody observed an Opal Allotoca in the wild since he co-discovered it about 20 years ago. Amateur fish-lovers had been trying to find a specimen since that time, and they probably had tried the pond, he said. But he said perhaps they only stood at the shore and reached in with nets. The three-acre pond apparently holds a substantial population, Smith said. Fish from the expedition were used to establish a breeding population at the New York Aquarium, Smith said Monday. The discovery occurred last year, but the first public announcement came only recently, he said.

Harvard lawsuit dismissed

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — A judge Monday dismissed a suit filed by Harvard Law School students charging that the college had failed to hire minorities, women and homosexuals to tenure faculty positions. Middlesex Superior Court Judge Patrick Brady upheld the school's argument that under state law, the people who can bring suits for employment discrimination are employees, or rejected employees or would-be employees who were deterred. Brady said the harms alleged by the students "are simply too indirect" to give them legal standing to sue.